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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 242

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## OPINION METER

This week's poll:

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## INSIDE

### LOCAL



The Japan Consular Office hosts a reception for Emperor Akihito's 80th birthday.

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The 2013 Christmas in the Marianas celebration starts this Saturday.

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The soldiers of Task Force Guam received support once again from Bank of Guam.

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Compared to most states in the U.S. mainland, the CNMI ranks low in having an educated community of citizens, according to a ranking official of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education yesterday.

» **CNMI ranks low in having educated citizenry'**

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## NMD Corp. to petition Congress

» **'Reject CNMI provisions in two immigration bills'**

» **OPA probes alleged use of govt resources for petition**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
[haidee\\_eugenio@saipantribune.com](mailto:haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp. Inc. is circulating a petition asking Congress to "reject" the inclusion in national immigration reform bills of any provision that would grant improved status to long-term legal aliens in the CNMI. The same immigration bills—S. 744 and H.R. 15—provide a pathway to citizenship to some 11 million undocumented aliens in America.

The Office of the Public Auditor, meanwhile, is in-

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## WICHE: Extreme lack of professionals in 2 years

Dr. David Longanecker warned that if this trend continues, the islands will experience an extreme shortage of professionals in the next two years, sapping the CNMI of its economic vitality and global competitiveness.

» **'CNMI ranks low in having educated citizenry'**

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### 19TH MICRONESIAN CHIEF EXECUTIVES' SUMMIT

'World's action needed now before we sink to the bottom of the ocean'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
[haidee\\_eugenio@saipantribune.com](mailto:haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Climate change and tourism challenges and opportunities took center stage at yesterday's opening of a three-day summit that brought Micronesian



presidents and governors to Saipan.

The 19th Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit also hope that Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo's recent appointment to the presidential task force on climate preparedness and resilience would bring to the fore the tiny is-

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Marshall Islands President Christopher J. Loeak, right, turns over the chairmanship of the Micronesian Chief Executives Summit to CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, at yesterday's opening of a three-day summit at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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**'Prosecuting defaulted govt scholars is long overdue' PAGE 7**



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# Local

## AT EMPEROR'S 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

# Hino reaffirms Japan ties with CNMI



MARK RABAGO

Japan Consul Koji Hino, second from right, and Gov. Eloy S. Inos, third from left, led the cracking open of a sake barrel during Tuesday night's 80th birthday celebration of Emperor Akihito at the Hafadai Beach Hotel. Also in photo are, from left, Senate President Ralph Torres, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hoffschneider, Hino's wife, and Saipan Mayor Donald Flores.

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Japan Consul Koji Hino reassured the CNMI that the country's ties with its former colony remains strong even as visitor arrivals from Japan have shrunk the past several years.

"Unfortunately, numbers of Japanese tourists have significantly decreased since Japan Airlines stopped its regular flights to Saipan. However, considering our long history of friendly relations, we should not let our ties weaken. I personally have confidence that we can continue to strengthen our ties in the future given the physical closeness of our islands," he said Tuesday night during the Japan Consular Office's reception for Emperor Akihito's 80th birthday celebration at the Hafadai Beach Hotel.

Hino said there remains a soft spot for the islands among the Japanese people. "Saipan is not as commercially developed as Guam and Hawaii but what attracts many foreign visitors and Japanese people who live here is the friendliness of the local people and the natural beauty and peacefulness of Saipan. Since I started working here, I have attended many peace memorial services held by various kinds of Japanese organizations to pay tribute to and mourn the war dead. However, many

young Japanese tourists don't know that war was fought here and many lost their lives. They just consider Saipan as a place to visit and enjoy."

### 2005 imperial visit

Hino recalled the imperial couple's visit to the CNMI eight years ago.

"As you may recall, in the year 2005 Their Majesties visited Saipan on their own request to pay tribute to the war dead and to pray for world peace. I wish to thank you for the warm hospitality extended to them during their stay here. Before coming to Saipan in 2005 His Majesty the Emperor remarked: 'It is our hope that as we walk onwards, all of us always keep in mind that Japan today is founded on the sacrifices of these many people.'"

Gov. Eloy S. Inos also recalled the imperial visit during his turn on the podium.

"Eight years later, the CNMI is still so grateful and indebted for the historic visit by Emperor Akihito and his wife, Empress Michiko, to Saipan on June 27 and 28, 2005. Today, as governor, I am truly pleased to once again convey the highest appreciation of the government and people of the CNMI to the imperial family for choosing to come here to pay tribute to and mourn the war dead. However, many

was historic as it marked the first ever journey outside Japan by members of the imperial family to pray for the war dead.

"It was also the first time the Emperor paid tribute at a monument specifically dedicated to Koreans killed in World War II," he added.

He wished Emperor Akihito a joyous 80th birthday. "This is an honorable celebration for an honorable and truly respected imperial leader. I join the people of the CNMI in wishing Emperor Akihito the best of health and greater success for many years to come!"

### Resolution

The CNMI Legislature presented Hino and the Consular Office of Japan on Saipan with a resolution thanking Japan for its many contributions to the CNMI.

Just before cocktails, Hino invited Inos, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hoffschneider, Senate President Ralph Torres, and Saipan Mayor Donald Flores to help crack open a barrel of Japanese sake.

It was no ordinary sake either. Hino said the Japanese sake they will be enjoying that evening is "kitaya," which was recently declared the champion sake at an international wine competition this year and was shipped especially from Japan for this occasion.

Emperor Akihito was born on Dec. 23, 1933.

# CNMI tax amnesty now in effect up to Jan. 1, 2014

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

For only the third time in CNMI history, taxpayers with delinquent returns can now settle their taxes without having to pay penalties and interests following Gov. Eloy S. Inos' signing yesterday of a tax amnesty law that will be in effect until Jan. 1, 2014.

Unlike the two previous tax amnesty laws, this one will run for only a month.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), author of the tax amnesty bill, reiterated yesterday that this is one of the most effective ways to generate additional revenue during these difficult times and "without raising taxes," rather than losing out on both the back taxes and penalties.

Sablan, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said the government's obligations are "piling up" and the Legislature has to continue looking for ways to generate new and additional revenues.

He cited, for example, the anticipated steep increases in government health insurance premiums as early as Jan. 1, 2014, which was among the main issues in Tuesday's leadership meeting between the governor and lawmakers.

"If people owe taxes, they can now come forward and

settle those back taxes with Finance's Revenue and Tax, work out a payment plan, and their penalties and interests will be waived. This would help generate additional revenues we badly need," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan's House Bill 18-28, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 is now Public Law 18-29.

The former CNMI immigration director reiterated that this is not "tax forgiveness," but only a waiver

of penalties and interests for those who want to finally come forward and pay what they owe the government in taxes.

"I hope that the circumstances have changed, so that those businesses, for example, that closed down because of back taxes, would be willing to settle their delinquent returns and reopen their businesses. In that way, they get another chance to run their business and help the economy further," he added.

The CNMI government provided tax amnesty programs in 2001 and 2005 through Public

Laws 12-51 and 14-28, respectively, in an effort to collect outstanding tax revenues.

Under a tax amnesty program, penalties and interests on unpaid or unreported taxes are waived. It allows taxpayers to voluntarily come forward and take action to comply with tax laws.

The tax amnesty does not apply to the following: persons against whom a criminal or civil action has been initiated and is pending for any violation of CNMI tax laws or any person being investigated for fraud; any person who has been convicted of tax fraud; any person whose source of income is illegal; or any person who fraudu-

lently files a special return under this new law.

Taxpayers who already received amnesty under Public Laws 12-51 or 14-28 are no longer eligible for tax amnesty under P.L. 18-29.

The new tax amnesty program is effective upon its Dec. 4 signing into law and until Jan. 1, 2014. It expires on Jan. 2, 2014.

The Finance secretary is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to administer this new statute.

Covered under the proposal are all taxes, including withholding taxes and all returns, including deductions, exemptions, and credits erroneously claimed in returns

filed for all tax years prior to calendar year 2013.

These include taxes for wages, salary or earnings; gross revenue tax; room, bar and jackpot tax; excise tax; and income and/or tax pursuant to NMTIT.

Tax amnesty, according to the Ways and Means Committee that reviewed and recommended passage of the bill, usually results in accelerated collection of overdue tax revenues to the government, although the program's primary goal is to bring taxpayers back into compliance, thus strengthening future revenue collection.

Another revenue-generating bill that has yet to find its way

to the governor's desk is an electronic gaming legislation that the Senate will take up at its next session. This comes after the Senate essentially killed anew a House bill legalizing casinos on Saipan. Video lottery has also become legal but the government has yet to issue a request for proposals for its operations.

With the demise of the garment industry, the CNMI now only has one industry—tourism.

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**ACTION***From Page 1*

lands' huge challenges.

One by one, presidents and governors shared their concerns about climate change and other island challenges.

"Hopefully, the industrialized nations would help soon and help fund the islands' adaptation to climate change, before we all sink to the bottom of the ocean," Yap Gov. Sebastian L. Anef told *Saipan Tribune*.

Marshall Islands President Christopher J. Loeak turned over the chairmanship of the MCES to CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who officially called the summit to order at 2:01pm at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

The summit, which wraps up tomorrow, tackles the region's common concerns and solutions, including climate change, tourism, healthcare, shark conservation, and human trafficking.

In his remarks, Inos said this

year's theme, "With the Sea, We are One," suggests Micronesia's common values and principles.

Like the other Micronesia leaders, Inos vowed support for the Guam governor as he takes part in the climate change task force that President Barack Obama formed.

Yap's Sebastian said they have started seeing coastal erosion, disappearing atolls, seepage of saltwater into taro patches, and coral bleaching. He said people have started relocating to the main island in the past 10 years because of rising sea level. He said some Yap atolls are only 10 to 11 feet above sea level.

"We want the industrial world to correct the problems that they have created because this has impacted us, we're innocent bystanders. We're not really contributing so much to the depletion of the ozone layer. It's the industrialized worlds in my view who are causing all these problems and unfortunately we are the victims," he said.

One of the major challenges is the islands' lack of resources to deal with climate change.

"If it takes money to correct some of the problems so be it, but they provide the funding. Now there's all kinds of funding they talk about but it's very hard to access such funding," said Anef, the longest member of the MCES.

Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr. said Calvo's appointment to the climate change task force, along with that of the Hawaii governor, will be critical in moving the islands' climate change agenda forward.

"Now is the time for the United States to take a strong stand on climate change and to begin the process of funding adaptation...I strongly believe that the MCES is still a viable vehicle for the leaders of our region to develop a Micronesian voice, not only in our Pacific region but in the larger international arena," he said.

Calvo said he will bring to

the task force the pertinent information from Micronesia on climate change.

He said Micronesian communities are the least contributors to climate change yet they bear the brunt of these changes—"whether it's drought, heavy precipitation, rising of seas, warming of seas."

"We're hopeful the federal government understands what it means to the quality of life to our people," he added.

Federated States of Micronesia President Emanuel Mori, in his remarks, suggested that instead of having 13 different issues, the summit should "prioritize" at least three major ones to see better progress.

The other chief executives agreed, and they cited almost the same issues—environment/climate change and tourism/economic development.

Also at the summit were Pohnpei Gov. John Ehsa, Chuuk Attorney General Sabino Asor representing Gov. Johnson S.

Elimo, and Kosrae Lt. Gov. Carson Sigrah.

Hundreds of delegates from different Micronesian islands

joined those from the CNMI at the summit, which also saw the participation of U.S. agencies and private entities.

**NMD***From Page 1*

vestigating the alleged use of government resources in the circulation of the NMD Corp. petition.

Among the allegations is the faxing of a copy of the petition sent from the Office of Personnel Management and faxed during office hours.

NMD Corp.'s Danny Quijugua and Alvaro Santos, in an interview yesterday, said the CNMI provisions in both S. 744 and H.R. 15 provide a shortcut to permanent residency to aliens in the CNMI and will automatically deprive U.S. citizens—especially indigenous groups—of some 12,000 jobs that aliens will cling to once they apply for and are granted permanent residency or "green card."

"Once they are granted permanent residency, they will cling to their jobs, and that will deprive U.S. citizens those jobs they hold. Then there's political ramifications," Santos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Under the CNMI-specific provisions in S. 744 and H.R. 15, there is no automatic and mass grant of permanent residency. Aliens have to "apply" for it.

Only those who have been legally in the CNMI since at least May 2003, which is 10 years ago, can apply for permanent residency five years after the bill is signed into law.

Quijugua and Santos said there's only 12,000 "local population," and once 12,000 or more are granted "green card," then that would "further marginalize" the indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians in the CNMI.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) earlier said the "12,000 to 14,000" that the NMD Corp. is claiming is "too high."

Sablan made sure that a CNMI provision is included in both U.S. Senate and U.S. House immigration reform bills.

Quijugua said they will be gathering signatures for the petition until Dec. 15.

"If Congress of the United States accedes to the inclusion of the CNMI in their comprehensive immigration reforms in both S. 744 and HR 15, it will be aiding and abetting in the total irreparable destruction of our 'Living History,' the speedy demise of our unique cultural and traditional identity and integrity as indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people of [Northern Marianas descent], and the complete and permanent overthrow of our political control of our self-government in our cultural homeland," the petition reads.

This also comes after the CNMI House adopted Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro's (R-Saipan) House resolution asking Congress to eliminate the CNMI provision in national immigration reform bills.

under Article 1, Section 103 of the Covenant."

Sablan and Gov. Eloy S. Inos separately said earlier that the CNMI provision in S. 744 and HR 15 does not violate the Covenant between the U.S. and the Northern Marianas.

"If it violates the Covenant, then Public Law 110-229 will be ruled as void and it's not. So if they have issues, don't blame Kilili. If you have anything to blame, blame history, the history where 78 percent of the people approved the Covenant in a plebiscite," Sablan said.

He said the issue of immigration "was settled in 1975 when the people approved the Covenant."

The NMD Corp. said that, unlike the continental United States, the CNMI is not a nation of immigrants but an island community of small homogeneous ethnicity, culturally rooted in traditional heritage.

The group also said the Chamorros and Carolinians "may be in imminent danger of becoming extinct as indigenous peoples of the CNMI."

They added that the CNMI-specific provision "was made without consultation" and "against" the consent of indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians.

"We hereby respectfully appeal to members of the Senate and House in the Congress of the United States to reject and disapprove any inclusion of the CNMI in S. 744 and H.R. 15, or any subsequent U.S. immigration legislation attempting to grant improved immigration status to foreign aliens in the CNMI with pathway to citizenship," the petitioners say.

They added that the indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians "fully support the cutoff date," referring to the end of the transitional period on Dec. 31, 2014, when alien workers need to exit the CNMI.

The CNMI government, business community and other sectors, however, have been asking for an extension of the CW worker program beyond 2014 because there is still not enough U.S. workers to fill the jobs held by foreign workers, who are mostly from Asia.

This NMD Corp. petition addressed to Congress is separate from another petition it addressed to CNMI lawmakers, asking them to introduce a joint resolution to also oppose the CNMI provision in S. 744 and H.R. 15.

The previous petition gathered 2,523 signatures, Quijugua said. These include 2,054 signatures from Saipan, 261 from Rota, and 208 from Tinian.

This also comes after the CNMI House adopted Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro's (R-Saipan) House resolution asking Congress to eliminate the CNMI provision in national immigration reform bills.

**WICHE***From Page 1*

Nonresident workers, who comprise the majority of the CNMI's workforce, are expected to leave the Commonwealth by the end of 2014, when the transition period to federal immigration ends.

Longanecker is on island for the Micronesian Executive Summit, along with Dennis Mohatt, WICHE vice president for behavioral health. The two are slated to make presentations about the organization and how member-institutions in the Pacific will benefit from WICHE's programs and initiatives.

"[The] CNMI, compared to most of the U.S. states, ranks relatively low [in terms of having an educated community]. Most of the people here with baccalaureate degrees came from other places and they're not CNMI citizens. You'll have to find a way to replace [the foreign workers]...and that's a huge challenge," Longanecker said during yesterday's news briefing at the Northern Marianas College.

The CNMI became a WICHE member in November last year, allowing CNMI students pursuing college in WICHE member-

institutions to avail of discounted rates for their tuition and fees. This is in addition to accessing various online courses and programs.

Because the CNMI's membership is relatively new, Longanecker could not immediately specify the number of CNMI students currently availing of WICHE programs. Member-institutions' reports, he said, are not due until next year.

WICHE is a regional organization that works to improve access to higher education.

At present it has 16 member institutions including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and the CNMI—the newest participant and the first from the Pacific Islands.

Each year, the CNMI must pay a membership fee of \$131,000 for its students to avail of WICHE programs and benefits. This annual due is being shouldered solely by the CNMI until other Pacific areas join in the initiative.

Longanecker described the discounted rates given to NMI students as "advantage tuition." For graduate students, for instance, WICHE's Western Re-

gional Graduate Program enables students to enroll in more than 250 graduate programs and pay the resident tuition rate instead of the nonresident rate that an out-of-state student would normally pay.

"As we look at the CNMI, with its immigration issues, you've got to do something because...the CNMI has a very limited resources, so I believe this partnership will give this island the capacity [to build its own professional workforce]," said Longanecker.

While on island, Longanecker said it is their objective to convince and entice other Pacific leaders to come together to what he called a "win-win" program for everyone. His team is set to meet with various Micronesian chief executives this week.

According to NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart, WICHE membership gives CNMI students "endless educational opportunities" for them to grow and succeed.

"NMC cannot be everything to everyone. We don't have the resources to really expand and open more doors for our students," she said, adding that participation in WICHE programs will greatly help develop much-needed professionals for

the CNMI.

She cited as example the extreme lack of dental hygienists in the Commonwealth, a career that can easily be developed with the help of WICHE programs.

"We're trying to target markets where the CNMI has a shortfall," she said.

Hart said the CNMI government must be concerned about the potential loss of its own workforce. She believes that islands and countries with the most educated people have the best economies.

Meanwhile, despite the financial constraints of the local government, Lt. Gov. Jude Hofschneider reiterated yesterday the administration's commitment to continue and strengthen the CNMI's partnership with WICHE.

"It's a challenge [to meet the dues] but nevertheless, the CNMI commitment is there," he said, adding that Inos administration will closely work with NMC to sustain this partnership with WICHE.

WICHE, according to Longanecker, has been around for 60 years and presently has 32,000 undergraduate students in its programs. Its graduate students attend about 220 institutions in the West, among others.

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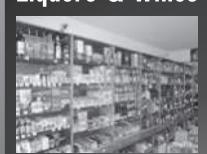
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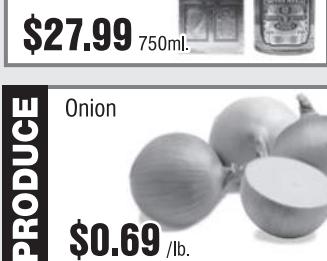
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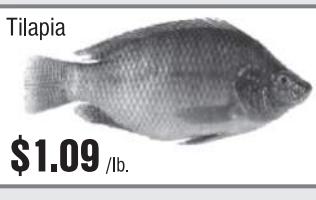


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# Ex-convict Palacios found guilty of all charges

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A federal court jury on Saipan has found Guam ex-convict Jesus S. Palacios guilty of charges related to possession of two guns and 27 bullets.

After deliberating for a few hours, the 12 jurors reached a unanimous verdict yesterday, finding the 52-year-old Palacios guilty of all charges—three counts of a felon in possession of firearm and/or ammunition

and three counts of unlawful use of a controlled substance in possession of firearm and/or ammunition.

Palacios will be sentenced on March 14, 2014 at 9am.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered the U.S. Probation Office to prepare a pre-sentence investigation report.

After the hearing, as a court marshal escorted him outside the courtroom, the teary-eyed Palacios nodded to some fam-

ily members and friends who watched the proceeding.

The trial began Tuesday.

Assistant U.S. attorneys Ramy Badawy and Ross Naughton on Tuesday called six witnesses: the defendant's wife, Yahong Li Palacios; Department of Public Safety police officer Rudolph C. Sablan, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives special agent John N. Quintanilla, ATF firearm and toolmark examiner Howard H. Hong, ATF fingerprint specialist Tamia

Kapila, and Drug Enforcement Administration forensic chemist Melanie A. Silver.

The prosecution rested its case after Silver's testimony.

Court-appointed counsel Mark Scoggins did not call any witness. The jurors started deliberations before noon yesterday.

The indictment arose from an incident in April 2013 when police arrested Palacios for allegedly beating up his wife in front of their child and pointing a gun

at her head when she refused to give him money.

The then 4-year-old boy told police that he witnessed the beating of his mother and that he also saw his father smoke "ice" and has four guns.

Police learned that Palacios was arrested in Guam in 1997 and charged with murder, manslaughter, and possession of a gun without an ID. He pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

In 1996, Palacios was also arrested in Guam and he subse-

quently pleaded guilty to aggravated assault. The other charges were dismissed.

According to the latest indictment, Palacios, a convicted felon, was found in possession of one Ruger Model 10/22 .38 caliber rifle and one .22 caliber rifle with its barrel and stock sawed off (serial number removed).

Palacios was also found in possession of nine .22 caliber bullets, 10 Winchester 38SPL .38 caliber bullets, and eight .9 mm caliber bullets.

## Christmas in the Marianas kicks off this Saturday

»Unveiling of 30-foot Christmas tree starts monthlong celebration



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

RNV Construction and Kinpachi Restaurant employees pose in front of the 30-foot Christmas Tree that will be unveiled this Saturday as the monthlong 2013 Christmas in the Marianas campaign starts at the Paseo de Marianas.

The 2013 Christmas in the Marianas celebration starts this Saturday with the lighting up of the giant Christmas tree at the center of the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

It marks the eighth year in a row that RNV Construction and its hardworking staff put up the 30-foot symbol of Christmas.

According to Sonia Siwa,

spokesperson for PDM Promoters, Inc., the mammoth Christmas tree took three months to build and is made of recycled cans and plastic bottles.

In addition to the lighting ceremony, the judging for the 8th Annual Christmas Tree Decoration Contest starts this Saturday.

Siwa said that 14 schools

signed up for the competition: San Antonio, Kagman, Tanapag, William S. Reyes, Oleai, Dandan, Gregorio T. Camacho, San Vicente, and Koblerville elementary schools; Green Meadow School, Golden Harvest International School, Grace Christian Academy, Mt. Carmel School, and Agape Christian School.

Two groups—Commonwealth Cancer Association led by Juan L. Babauta and the Girls Scout of the Northern Mariana Islands led by Laila Y. Boyer—will also participate but not compete in the Christmas tree decoration contest.

"They want to be a part of our Christmas event and will also decorate their Christmas tree," she said.

Last year, San Antonio successfully defended its championship in the 7th Annual Christmas Tree Decoration Contest.

The annual competition aims to promote the importance of recycling by encouraging elementary students to use empty soda cans, water bottles, used paper, and other recyclable materials to decorate 9-foot tall Christmas trees along Paseo de Marianas.

Like previous years, the judging of entries for the Christmas tree decorating contest will coin-

cide with the kickoff of the month-long Christmas in the Marianas activities to be hosted by "Friends of Paseo de Marianas," a group composed of PDM Promoters, Marianas Visitors Authority, and Pacific Development Inc.

The 2013 Christmas in the Marianas celebration will also have a Christmas Caroling Competition on Dec. 14 at the Paso de Marianas and a Parade of Floats on Dec. 21. The latter will be held along the stretch of Beach Road from the Carolinian Affairs Office to the American Memorial Park.

This year's Christmas in the Marianas culminates with the annual Mochitsuki Festival on Dec. 28. Organized in collaboration with the Japanese Society, the festival marks the season's preparation of mocha—a dough-like substance of glutinous rice—for the Japanese New Year.

PDM Promoters, Inc. is a non-profit corporation that aims to make the Paseo de Marianas and the Garapan vicinity a safe and clean place for tourists and residents alike.

For more information about the 8th Annual Christmas Tree Decoration Contest, call Siwa at 234-6900 or 989-7715. (*Saipan Tribune*)



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**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: ITB14-OPM-026**

**SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE:** December 31, 2013  
**TIME:** 10:00 A.M.

**"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ROTA BRANCH"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ISIDRO K. SEMAN  
DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: ITB14-OPM-027**

**SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE:** December 31, 2013  
**TIME:** 10:30 A.M.

**"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT TINIAN BRANCH"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ISIDRO K. SEMAN  
DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON  
DIRECTOR, P&S

# 'Prosecuting defaulted govt scholars is long overdue'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The decision to run after non-responsive government scholars is long overdue, according to Lt. Governor Jude Hofsneider, who praised yesterday the move recently taken by the CNMI Scholarship Office and its advisory board.

Without citing numbers, Hofsneider described as "substantial" the amount owed the government by the de-

faulted scholars who failed to return to the CNMI to fulfill the conditions set in the agreement they signed with the scholarship agency.

"When the recipients signed off on the agreement, they understood what they are obligated to do. Part of this agreement is they are required to come back and serve the community. If they are challenged by not landing a decent job here, it doesn't mean that they don't

## Reyes named MPLT administrator

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Marianas Public Land Trust board of trustees has approved the appointment of one of its long-time staffers to serve as the agency's new administrator.

MPLT board chair Pedro Deleon Guerrero and the agency's consultant, Bruce MacMillan, confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday the appointment of Bobbie Reyes to the position.

Deleon Guerrero disclosed that Reyes is the agency's long-time office manager. Her appointment was made after undergoing thorough review of her performance.

Deleon Guerrero said the board made the decision during one of its October meetings where Reyes' performance evaluation was discussed in an executive session.

"Based on the result of the annual performance evaluation, [Reyes] received a very high

rating that prompted the board to go ahead and approve her promotion," the chairman said yesterday, adding that everyone is fully satisfied with how the former program manager managed to fulfill all her tasks and additional work.

With her promotion also comes a corresponding merit increase in her salary. Her new contract is valid for three years.

MPLT, it was learned, has only two staffers, including the office manager.

According to MacMillan, Reyes promotion to the administrator position was purely based on merit. The office manager position, he said, was eliminated, giving way to the creation of the administrator position.

MPLT is a government instrumentality tasked to handle and manage public land lease revenue, which it invests for government appropriation. The agency is run by a governing board.

## Settlement reached in Taylor's lawsuit vs Buckingham, OAG

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The parties in the age discrimination lawsuit filed by former CNMI government lawyer James William Taylor against former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham and the Office of the Attorney General have reached a settlement.

Taylor's lawyer, Robert T. Torres, and assistant attorney general Reena Patel, representing the CNMI government, agreed Tuesday to ask the court to dismiss the lawsuit in its entirety and with finality.

Torres and Patel said their stipulation is made as the settlement between the parties on all claims and issues was achieved.

The lawyers said the U.S. District Court for the NMI shall, however, retain jurisdiction over the case to ensure that the settlement terms will be enforced.

Each party will bear its own attorney's fees and costs.

The terms and conditions of the settlement were not disclosed.

Last August, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Joaquin V.E. Manibusan

have to pay anymore. I think it [prosecuting this matter] should have been initiated way back," he said after yesterday's press conference at the Northern Marianas College.

Scholarship administrator Rose Pangelinan earlier said that these defaulted scholars owe the government a significant amount. Over the years, these scholars failed to respond to the government's pleas to come and work with the scholarship agency for assistance and guidance. This resulted in the decision to refer their cases to the Office of the Attorney General for legal



Hofsneider

proceedings. *Saipan Tribune* learned that all agreements made between CNMI Scholarship Office and recipients are legally binding. If a recipient is in default of the conditions of their memorandum of agreement, he or she is required to repay the total amount they received.

For example, of the more than 100 scholars of the CNMI Scholarship Office who potentially graduated last school year, only a few have actually notified the government about the completion of their studies, violating the agreement they signed with the CNMI Scholarship Office.

Collection from fiscal year 2013 alone was also low at only \$55,367.

Hofsneider said the Inos administration will continue to work with the Scholarship Office to find ways on how the government can assist the recipients, even if they are in default. However, he pointed out that the government needs to also act on how it could recover the "loss" incurred by the program.

He admitted that the government continues to find it hard to entice the islands' scholars to return and work for the CNMI. He said the CNMI's lack of available jobs is what hinders these scholars from returning home.

CNMI scholars, upon re-

ceiving their checks, sign a memorandum of agreement that requires the scholar to notify the CNMI Scholarship Office within 90 days once they graduate or fail to enroll.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that if they fail to do this, these scholars will be in default and all the funds they received from the scholarship program will become a loan that they must pay back.

Beneficiaries are also required to return to the CNMI and work here after college graduation. It was also learned that if a defaulted scholar has no job or can't find one to repay the "loan," a deferment can be worked out with the Scholarship Office if they wish to.

## BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

### COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION RATE PROCEEDING DOCKET 13-01

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that at 9:00 a.m. on **Monday December 9, 2013**, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission [*Commission*] will conduct a public hearing at the **Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center**, Saipan to receive and consider evidence and discussion regarding the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's [CUC] July 5, 2013 petition for rate relief, as amended on November 8, 2013. The public can review these filings on CUC's website under the "Announcement" tab. A two hour period [2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.] on December 9 will be reserved for public comments. This hearing will continue, if necessary, at the same location at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday December 10, 2013. The Commission will also conduct additional public hearings at 4:30 p.m. on **December 11, 2013** at the **Tinian Superior Court** and at 4:30 p.m. on **December 12, 2013** at the **Rota Superior Court**.

In its November 8, 2013 first amended petition, CUC withdrew all requests for increase of its water and wastewater rates. Accordingly, in these hearings the Commission will only be reviewing CUC's request for increase in its electric base rates and for other regulatory relief, as follows:

1. A \$4.93 million dollar increase in electric base rates to fund revenue requirements, including: a] \$1.2 million dollars to fund payments due to Commonwealth Development Authority; and b] \$1.41 million dollars for annual expenses related to change order #5 to CUC's September 17, 1997 contract with Telesource CNMI, Inc.
2. Revision of electric residential customer rate blocks.
3. Amendment of the electric lifeline rate.
4. Establishment of an electric large customer standby charge.
5. Approval of new or revised "non-rate" fees.
6. An interim delegation of authority to CUC regarding monthly LEAC adjustment.

The amended petition is being reviewed by the Commission's independent regulatory consultant [Georgetown Consulting Group] who will submit its position on the need and "just and reasonableness" of CUC's rate and related requests at the public hearings.

The Commission will also review at the public hearings the status of: a] CUC's accounts receivable; b] the \$1.02 million dollars in annual revenue, which it awarded CUC by Decision dated June 7, 2011 to fund obligations under a \$10 million dollar loan with Independence Bank, which never closed; and c] CUC's compliance with the requirements of Public Law 15-87 regarding the establishment of a net metering program.

**THE COMMISSION WELCOMES THE PUBLIC'S ATTENDANCE** at the public hearings. Persons who desire to formally participate in the hearings pursuant to 4 CMC § 8409(j) of Public Law 15-35 should on or before December 3, 2013 file with the Commission at The Law Office of Lillian A. Tenorio, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan [phone: (670)234-7850; email: latlaw@pticom.com] an application and offer of proof in accordance with said section and with Commission Procedural Rule 11(c).

The Commission will notice and conduct a business meeting to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearings after its Hearing Examiner's Report has been filed and noticed for public comment. Further information about the public hearings and the public's right to participate may be obtained from The Law Office of Lillian A. Tenorio.

# Pesticide applicator certification, exam on Rota

The Division of Environmental Quality will administer the Pesticide Applicator Examination on Friday, Dec. 13, 2013, at 9am at the Northern Marianas College – Rota Campus.

Individuals wanting to become certified pesticide applicators must pass a written examination. Each exam is a written, closed-book examination consisting of 70 multiple-choice questions. Each candidate has up to two hours to complete the exam. The minimum passing score is 70 percent.

Examination includes but is

not limited to labeling; safety factors; environmental consequences; pest identification and characteristics; pesticide types, formulations and dilutions; equipment maintenance and calibration; proper storage, use, and disposal of pesticides and containers; pesticide application techniques; pesticide laws and regulations; record-keeping; worker protection standards; and other relevant information as deemed necessary, including but not limited to new developments and other pertinent matters.

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

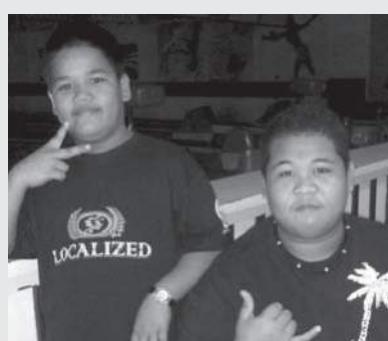
Happy Kelome day to our big boy whose turning 5 today, Kelome Jesse S. DLG! Lot's of birthday loving coming your way from Mom, Dad, KeoAna, and Kelen Boy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy birthday to Matias Jesus "MJ" B. Bokuku! May the Lord bless you on your special day, bless and guide you wherever you may be! We love you! Greetings come from Uncle Michael, Auntie Eleanor, Mikilynna, and Miguel Naputi.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Pesticide safety education classes will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 11, and Thursday, Dec. 12, also at the NMC-Rota Campus. This tutorial will help the applicator prepare for the exam.

Who should register for the exam? Any person who uses insect or pest control products on plants, vegetables, fruits, or flowers; applies a weed-

and-feed product to a client's lawn or spray for insects; uses insect or pest control products for the maintenance of resort grounds, golf courses, or greenhouses; applies pesticides to someone else's property; applies, purchases or distributes Restricted Use Pesticides; or applies pesticides in residences, schools, or public

places must obtain certification to apply pesticides.

Exam categories are: Commercial Agriculture, Commercial Resort (Ornamental & Turf), Commercial Institutional (structural, health), and Private Agricultural. Commercial applicators shall pay a non-refundable fee of \$50 for the processing of the commercial

certifications and \$10 for private certifications.

Your certification card can help you instill buyer confidence—that you know how to use pesticides safely and that you are following the law.

For Saipan residents, exams are held on the second Monday of each month. For more information about the certification and exam requirements, contact Reina Camacho at 664-8512 or send an email to reinacamacho@deq.gov.mp. (DEQ)

an area on Naval Magazine for proper disposal.

The Navy has been in constant communication with Guam Homeland Security and the Guam Police Department in preparation for this evolution. All safety measures are in place to ensure the protection of base personnel and the general public.

For more information on EODMU-5 Det. Marianas, visit the command's website at <http://www.eodmu5.navy.mil/>. (PR)

## Guam experts to render safe WWII bomb

SANTA RITA, Guam—Military, civilian personnel and residents who live or work near the entrance to Naval Magazine will be directed to evacuate the area starting at 3pm today, Dec. 5, while the Navy performs a render safe procedure on a World War II-era 500-lb bomb.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 Detachment Marianas will conduct

the render safe procedure on the unexploded ordnance. The bomb was discovered earlier this week in a construction site across from building 400, which is near the entrance to the Naval Magazine.

All military, civilian personnel and residents within 2,150 feet from the construction site must evacuate the area at 3pm and avoid the area until the all

clear is given. The Guam Police Department will secure traffic along Route 5 and Route 12 immediately outside the Naval Magazine gate entrance. The evacuation period is not expected to last beyond 6pm but updates will be communicated to all those affected as soon as possible.

Once the bomb is rendered safe, it will be transported to

## UOG Fine Arts lines up performances in Dec.

### »UOG students display music and acting talents in three exciting performances.

University of Guam Fine Arts students are proud to present three exciting performances in December. All three shows are open to the public and free of charge.

University Music presents "A Potpourri of Recital,

Contest and Seasonal Music" which takes place at 8pm on Friday, Dec. 6, at the UOG Fine Arts Theater. This concert will feature fast-paced variety. The UOG Jazz Ensemble will perform a selection of jazzy holiday classics, and student soloists selected from our recent jury and the University Singers in their *a cappella* style will perform some holiday favorites as well as some

selections for their upcoming choral competition.

In addition, University Theatre students will be presenting two performances that are culminations of their work and learning experiences in their acting and playwriting classes.

*Exchanges*, which consists of original one-act plays by students John Borja, Paulette Coulter, Anissa Ramos, and Andrew Roberto, will take

place at 7pm on Wednesday, Dec. 11, at the UOG Fine Arts Theatre. *Exchanges* is the final product of UOG's first ever Playwriting class.

On Dec. 17, students from UOG's Acting I class will end their semester with an exciting final project, the presentation of original theatrical work on stage with the performance of *Train of Thought*. Eight students will present monologues instructed by Tali Ariav, UOG Acting Instructor and playwright. (UOG)



## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Caller Box 10007  
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 664-2375  
Fax: (670) 664-2408

## ADDENDUM NO. 1

11/25/13

ITB14-GOV-019

## REPAIRS, RENOVATIONS & IMPROVEMENTS OF THE TINIAN HEALTH CENTER

The previously advertised notice, Invitation To Bid ("ITB") for the "Repairs, Renovations & Improvements to the Tinian Health Center" has been amended. The specific amendment is to reschedule the pre-bid conference/site visit from 9:00 a.m., Friday, December 6, 2013 to 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 4, 2013.

All other elements of the ITB remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Capital Improvement Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday, except holidays or by contacting Mr. Carl Castro, Contracting Officer Technical Representative at (670) 664-2375 or by fax at (670) 664-2408.

END OF ADDENDUM NO. 1



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-14-003

#### Completion of Installation of a New 500,000 Gal. Diesel Fuel Tank at Power Plant No.1, Saipan



The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals (Request for Proposals – RFP) from qualified and experienced Tank erection / installation firms for correction of existing defects, assembly, installation and commissioning a new Above Ground Oil Storage Tank (AST), as per the specifications contained in the proposal document and monitored through a construction management firm and a third party quality control firm, contracted by CUC. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the United States District Court entered into a Stipulated Order Number Two (SO No. 2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief under Civil Case No. CV 08-0051 (Section 1.1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed the civil action seeking injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This work shall satisfy the requirement in Section IV, Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness, Paragraphs # 28 Tank System Integrity Testing Workplan and Implementation for CUC Power plants 1 and 2 and Integrity Inspection Program.

The Saipan Power plant is located in the Lower Base Industrial Area near the Saipan Seaport, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The foundation, tank and accessories have been designed by a US based company and the tank assembly kit was supplied to Saipan port by the same company, United Industries Group, CA (UIG) for installation by a local contractor. The previous construction contractor has been terminated due to default and performance issues while the metal work and welding work was in progress. The project is currently in a partially finished state.

The purpose of this RFP is to ensure the CUC is to ensure that the new tank is built to the codes and standards to which it was originally designed, including the corrections necessary, details of which have been described in the RFP and meets the stringent tests and inspections noted therein. Upon being awarded the contract and receiving the Notice to Proceed (NTP), the contractor will complete the correction as provided in the RFP. Following schedules shall be noted by all vendors:

- Contract Award - February 6, 2014
- Notice to proceed / site mobilization - February 13, 2014
- Tank completion - July 8, 2014

The Scope-of-Work and Proposal package will be emailed, upon request, to all interested proposers, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working days, from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM local time, until December 18, 2013.

A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a site visit is scheduled at the Saipan CUC Power Plant 1, administration building on December 18, 2013 at 10:00 AM, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) Original and Six(6) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-14-003 - REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - Completion of Installation of a New 500,000 Gal. Diesel Fuel Tank at Power Plant No.1, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than December 31, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Upon award of the contract the Offeror is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page - <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposal. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code, with the proposal.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00am (ChST) on December 20, 2013, to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) and Petroleum and Compliance Manager, Mr. Andrew Longworth at [andrew.longworth@cucgov.org](mailto:andrew.longworth@cucgov.org).

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the interest of the government.

CHARLES WARREN  
Acting Executive Director

# Jury deliberation starts in Monkeya trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Jurors began deliberations last night in the ongoing trial of Melvin Ilo Monkeya, a former Tinian police officer accused of sexually abusing a then-14-year-old girl inside the Tinian police station in 2008.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the jurors started deliberations at 6pm. When they failed to reach a unanimous verdict by 7pm, they were directed to resume

## » 2 other alleged victims take the witness stand

their deliberations at 8:15am today, Thursday. The trial is being conducted at the Superior Court Tinian.

Chief Prosecutor Shelli Neal and assistant attorney general Chemere McField yesterday called a police detective and two other alleged sexual assault victims of Monkeya.

The Office of the Attorney General has not charged Monkeya in connection with the incidents involving the two other

alleged victims.

The prosecution rested its case after the testimonies of the three witnesses.

Defense attorney Jennifer Dockter then moved for a judgment of acquittal but Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho denied the motion. Dockter then called two witnesses—Monkeya's mother and an attending physician at the Tinian Health Center.

The trial began on Monday.

Monkeya, 42, is charged with one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.



## GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. David Longanecker, president of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, addresses members and guests of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall yesterday. Besides businesses, also in the crowd are public and private school students that took part in the Chamber's Annual Student Career Exploration Day.

## Matson, LBC ship relief supplies to PH

**GUAM**—Matson is partnering with the LBC Foundation in delivering donated typhoon relief goods to the Philippine Red Cross.

Matson will provide free shipping services from Hawaii and Guam to Manila, transporting container loads of relief goods donated to the LBC Foundation. The shipments will be distributed by the Philippine Red Cross to locations affected by Super Typhoon Haiyan.

"There has been a very gen-

erous effort in our communities in Hawaii and Guam to donate relief goods to those who have been devastated by Super Typhoon Haiyan," said Vic Angoco, senior vice president, Pacific, Matson.

"Matson wants to support the relief effort by providing our shipping expertise at no cost. While we do not serve the Philippines, we can transport the supplies in our containers and on our Hawaii and Guam vessels to Asia, where they'll be transshipped."

(PR)

## Man gets 1-month sentence for beating 2 nieces

A man was slapped with a one-month prison term for beating up his two nieces, including a minor, while intoxicated.

Joaquin M. Igisomar, 38, pleaded guilty last week to assault and battery as part of a plea deal.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Igisomar to two years in prison, all suspended except for one month. He was given credit for five days time served.

Igisomar was ordered to start

serving his sentence on Jan. 2, 2014. After his release, he will be placed on two years of supervised probation.

Igisomar was required to pay a \$100 fine and \$25 court assessment fee. He was ordered to perform 200 hours of community service, write a letter of apology to the victims, and complete anger management counseling. During the probationary period, he will not be allowed to possess or consume any alcoholic beverages.

According to the plea deal, on July 5, 2013 in San Jose, Saipan, Igisomar, while intoxicated, slapped his niece twice on the left cheek. He then walked over to another family member, slapped her, and pushed her down the floor. The family member sustained bruises as a result of the attack.

Police said Igisomar apparently got angry after he was awakened by the children's noise. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 13-055

Opening Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013  
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

### Trades Foreperson (Electrical)

**DUTIES:** Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Serves as a foreperson, leading a team of workers - assigning and monitoring work and providing technical direction. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

**LOCATION**

: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)

**SALARY**

: \$21,104 to \$30,601 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

**POSITIONS**

: One (1).

**CONTRACT**

: Not Contracted.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:** High School Diploma or General Education Diploma or Adult Basic Education. Four years of journey-level experience at the level of a Trades Technician (Electrician), or comparable experience related to the Power Generation area assigned—electrical, and including one year of experience leading a crew. Graduation from a Vocational/Technical Institution as an electrician. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 13-056

Opening Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013  
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

### Trades Technician (Operator)

**DUTIES:** Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

**LOCATION**

: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

**SALARY**

: \$17,282 to \$25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

**POSITIONS**

: Six (6).

**CONTRACT**

: Not Contracted.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:** High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible and proven experience in the trade—in this case operator. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 13-057

Opening Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013  
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

### Trades Technician (Mechanic)

**DUTIES:** Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

**LOCATION**

: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

**SALARY**

: \$17,282 to \$25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

**POSITIONS**

: Ten (10)

**CONTRACT**

: Not Contracted.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:** High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case mechanic. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 13-058

Opening Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013  
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

### Trades Technician (Electrician)

**DUTIES:** Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

**LOCATION**

: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

**SALARY**

: \$17,282 to \$25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

**POSITIONS**

: Three (3).

**CONTRACT**

: Not Contracted.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:** High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case electrical. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 13-059

Opening Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013  
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

### Stipulated Order II Project Coordinator

**DUTIES** - The Project Coordinator (PC) is under the supervision of the Petroleum and Compliance Manager (also known as the Technical Manager for Oil) or their designee. Position will be primarily responsible for oversight of assigned projects and compliance activities. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

**LOCATION**

: Petroleum and Compliance Office, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

**SALARY**

: Based on credentials and specialized experience \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 per annum.

**POSITIONS**

: One (1).

**CONTRACT**

: Two-year

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:** A bachelor's degree or its equivalent in engineering or natural science. (An equivalent is an associate's degree in engineering or natural science and two years of direct oil experience; these two years are in addition to that detailed below.) Plus the following:

- 10 years in project administration and management, including overseeing work of contractors and company staff in an executive management position with proven management and communication skills.
- A minimum of three (3) years' experience with in oil spill, prevention, preparedness and response, environmental assessment related to power plant operations, and knowledge of DEQ and EPA regulations.
- 5 years of experience in preparing bid or request for quotations and proposals.
- 5 years of experience in contract negotiation and preparation.

**Desirable:**

- Prior experience of staff training and development.
- Certification in API tank inspection.

JVA No. 13-060

Opening Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013  
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

### Assistant Petroleum and Compliance Manager

**DUTIES** – The Assistant Petroleum and Compliance Manager ("AM") shall work under the supervision of the Petroleum and Compliance Manager (also known as the Technical Manager for Oil) or his/her designee. Position shall be primarily responsible for oversight of projects and compliance activities including, but not limited to, oil management. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

**LOCATION**

: Petroleum and Compliance Office, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

**SALARY**

: Based on credentials and specialized experience \$55,000.00 to \$74,989.00 per annum.

**POSITIONS**

: One (1).

**CONTRACT**

: Two-year.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**

- A bachelor's degree in engineering or natural science.
- 10 years in project administration and management, including overseeing work of contractors and company staff in an executive management position with proven management and communication skills.
- A minimum of three (3) years' experience in oil spill, prevention, preparedness and response, environmental assessment related to power plant operations, and extensive knowledge of DEQ and EPA regulations.
- 5 years of experience in preparing bid documents or request for quotations and proposals.
- 5 years of experience in contract negotiation and preparation.

**Desirable:**

- Prior experience of staff training and development.
- Master's degree in engineering and registration as professional engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in civil, mechanical, environmental or chemical engineering.
- Certification in API tank inspection.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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## Let's stop buying and giving things that people don't want or need

By DANIEL FINK  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

**S**ome celebrate Christmas, some Hanukkah and some Kwanzaa, but to me the coming holiday time is potlatch season, and it's starting earlier every year.

A potlatch was a festival of the indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest during which the host distributed property and gifts as a way to demonstrate wealth, generosity and social standing. Guests would reciprocate at a later time with items that matched or exceeded the value of the original gifts, or risk being humiliated.

Although births and marriages were sometimes acknowledged at a potlatch, the main purpose was the reciprocal redistribution of wealth. The more one gave away, the greater one's power. In some tribes' celebrations, the goods were destroyed, in what might be called the ultimate act of conspicuous consumption.

In the late 1800s, Canada and the United States banned potlatch ceremonies at the urging of Christian missionaries and government agents, who saw the custom as wasteful, unproductive and contrary to civilized values. These bans were clearly discriminatory, but were also a way of assimilating the native peoples into Western traditions of displaying power by accumulating and keeping wealth rather than by giving it away. The potlatch bans were eventually repealed.

Fast-forward 125 years, and one wonders whether modern American society has adopted the potlatch traditions. As "Black Friday" morphs in one direction to interfere with the celebration of Thanksgiving and in the other toward Cyber Monday, people continue to buy one another things just because they "have to get someone a gift," even if it may be re-gifted, returned or never used. Our society's barely restrained annual celebration of blatant commercialism approaches the seemingly needless exchanges and even destructiveness of the potlatch.

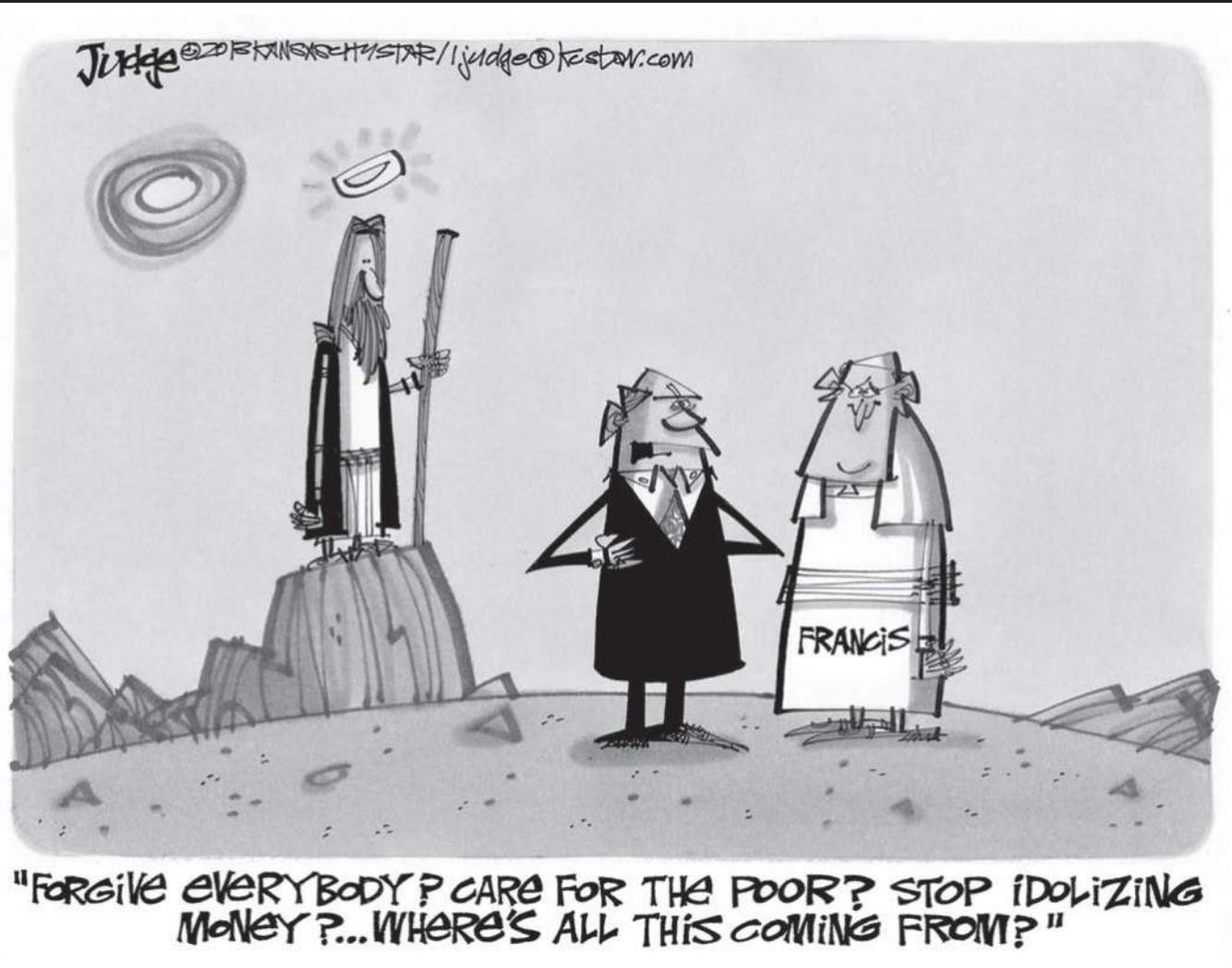
Judging from news reports and holiday sales that began before kids were done trick-or-treating, retailers are very concerned that business will be down from last year. They have reason to be concerned. Aside from the shorter shopping period between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the economy is still a shambles, the economic impact of Obamacare is unclear and there are no really "must have" consumer electronics, books or toys.

Unfortunately, in these hard economic times, when jobs are still scarce, there is great need and even food insecurity, especially among younger people and families with children. But in most parts of middle- and upper-class Southern California, nobody appears to need much more than what they already have.

My wife says that if everyone thought as I do, the economy would be in even worse shape. She's probably right. The malls would be emptier and business would be down for sweatshops in China, unsafe factories in Bangladesh and makers of gift cards and wrap. But here in the Los Angeles area, cars are parked in driveways or on the



See STOP on Next Page



## People Power to the quick

**I**t has almost been a month since Typhoon Yolanda's (Haiyan) strong and unprecedented belch spewed over the central islands of the Philippine archipelago. Having invested presence and energy in the affected area two decades ago, I was quick to develop empathy to the aftermath's innocent suffering, but disciplined enough to distance myself emotionally from the disaster. Visibly, whatever tangible accomplishments we might have contributed before were wiped out, but I was confident that the human spirit we shared with folks stayed around longer.

It is People Power II, not in protest against the likes of a Ferdinand Marcos or a seemingly uncomfortable President Benigno Noynoy Aquino, but in the building of something new from the old, now obliterated for good. That is the unmistakable lesson we hear from friends and associates in the region who have buckled up and rolled up their sleeves to proceed with the building process.

I am reminded of the time I was a resident community worker in the village of Sudtongan, Basak, Lapu-Lapu City on Mactan Island in Cebu Province, a project demonstration site. While my wife and I were facilitating a community replication consult at the other end of the island, our staff residence in the middle of the coral-limestone studded village burned down.

There were no fatal casualties but our two daughters, along with children of other staff members, ran out into safety practically naked since sleeping in the tropical humid atmosphere did not require pajamas or much of anything else. I recall a couple of village homes taking their children's Sunday clothes, offering them for our children's use. I lost two items of commercial value: an Italian handmade pair of comfortable loafers, and an old Cartier watch, gifts from a previous lifestyle.

What a liberating incident the conflagration was, for not only did I no longer had to worry about the meager wealth I owned, I was also a grateful recipient of the care and compassion of those I had come to serve and labor with. Suddenly our roles were reversed. It was at once a humbling and freedom-boosting occasion.

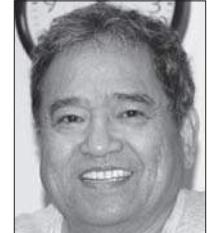
Something of this nature occupied my mind as I got news from colleagues across the Visayas, and as reports from the devastated areas began to filter out into the world's press. I have grown rather confident through the years in the resiliency of the world-wide street-smart Pinoy with whom I identify with, along with many Filipinos in diaspora around the world from whose ranks some emerged, and I was seeing the traits of practical realism on display in the ruins of Tacloban.

Consider China's rude awakening from the viciousness of international media attack over what was considered a paltry contribution to humanitarian aid (at the time China herself suffered the onslaught of Haiyan in its southern flank), particularly from American news services and their international outlets.

China's response requires no defense. I am an American of Phil-

By JAIME VERGARA  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a resident of Saipan teaching at the Shenyang Aerospace University in China. His email is pinopanda2031@aol.com.



ippine descent teaching English in China's northeast in Manchuria so I bridge the three countries involved. To help understand contemporary China, I was in Ya-an in Sichuan this summer where a 2008 quake devastated the area, eliciting an outpouring of worldwide aid, but the replay in 2012 had the locals saying, "Thanks, but no, thanks" to offers of financial aid from the international community. They resolved to rebuild their communities from the ground up themselves with national assistance. Not without blemish, we note. Internal fundraising included fake claims and luxuriant expenditures from those who heeded their greed at the expense of a needful mass.

When a Pinay in Leyte-Samar was asked what she thought of China's meager relief response, she said, "Oh, we do not think in terms of how much; to anything offered, we say, *salamat* [thank you]." The first Chinese volunteers who landed to deliver aid heard typhoon victims egging them on with the Zhongwen "kuai, kuai, kuai" (quick, quick, quick) to get them where they were needed.

Quietly, but quickly, a flotilla of 50 U.S. naval vessels and more than 10,000 personnel delivered relief food and water by sea, land, and air. A critic of military imperial presence and pretensions in the region, I genuinely doff my hat to the organized grunts and fliers who delivered needed goods. We can get our drone technology to serve weather forecasting, and military discipline to organize humanitarian efforts, and I reserve the option to execute my ROTC hand salute each time I see Old Glory flying over military equipment and personnel!

Pinoy People Power is a phenomenon around the world, aped in the gathered crowd of Arab Spring to even the clashing but dancing Red and Yellow Thais who leave on their own volition after occupying public buildings.

People Power in the reconstruction of a new Samar-Leyte (the resort island of Guiuan, Eastern Samar is already high profile) is the Pinoy's agenda, harnessing the native powers of *balikatan* and *bayanihan*, forgiving but managing the rapacious propertied class and the opportunistic looters, toward a resilient and creative Pinoy-landia! And do so, in the new but now widely used term in a normally laidback land: *kuai, kuai, kuai!*

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

# Casino giya Japon

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



**I**kongresson iya Japon (Diet) ha tutuhon umina para maestablesen casino gi tanu' niha. Este na diniseha pot para u tagam kase 26 miyon na koblen man-riku dimas de umagastra otru lugat.

Este na kinalamten mas ha utut appottunidat adelanton industrian casino guine. Dispues, mas listu Japon gi todur kinalamten para u asegura na tai achaigua este na industria desde tutuhon.

Mafattu seriosu siha gi hinasoghu haf' otru guaha na klasen industria fuera ke sessu ta guife kulan satbadot todur i chin-sagata tat kumu casino.

Makat na kontrariu dispues de malagnos kase \$7 biyon pesus na fondun fiñkas ni salape' ginen hiyuñg. Desde 2005 taya' tumalag halom dañikulu na planun man-inbette fuera ke man-malimite gi pahinan gaseta. Mas mafondu ekonomian i tanu' gi mismu tiempu.

Macau yan Japon man-lodu' fuetsan kahan niha, mientras mas menos keblen Marianas gi papa' sumen chafleg na ekonomia.

**Kinentran sentimentun publiku**

'Nai ha muebague' i publiku ya ha pega gi fina' plebiscite asunto linahyan, haf' mohon signifikasioña este na kinalamten yan resuttan botasion?

Na ti magahet na ha chule' pot taya inañgohoña gi disision lehislatura? Pot dos biahe ha punu' asunton casino gi fina' plebiscite. Haf' ti in' kemprende gi klaru na sentimenton publiku nu este na attkulu?

I sentimenton publiku mas klaru yan asegurau ke disatenteria ni umatrebe ti rumespeta disision publiku ginen dinaña todus. Debi ta-fanue' este siha na membron lehislatura na taya' kampu para oppan na disatenteria gi satton yan klaru na mandatun publiku.

**Mattirun Diskuidu**

Silensi finatton lemlem tautau 'nai sige hu ebala finapos-ta es-pesiatmente i didog na pinadesen familia gi katkuet sakudida. Tat ti mamadedese guaguan gaston linala'. Todur mañichichi' maseha manu guatu piot giya Tinian yan Luta.

Makat na kontrariu ni taimanu na atlibesmu. Megai mampost pinadese punta pot punta. Kuestion: Haf' bidan niniha i man-ma-elihe para u bira miserapble ni ma-impeña gi tautau pot diskuidu? I mas namatman i kulan mohon otdinariu yan felis i finapos tautau ni man-mamatmos gi halom aplacha' na sisonyan miserapble. Pot dios dalai este na diskuidu!

**Pañgpañg Napu**

Kulan makayun establisau na chalan todur hinerasion desde hoben, mediu idat yan 'nai man-amku'. I uttumu eskalera, sessu mabisita i

**STOP**

From Page 10

street because garages are full of stuff. And when Angelenos run out of space there, they rent storage lockers, where from time to time they visit their extra things.

Maybe this year, we can work toward ending the potlatch season. Let's stop buying and giving things people don't want and don't need.

If you feel a need to give, give food to the hungry, clothes and toys to those in need, or donations to victims of storms, violence or conflict. A plate of homemade cookies or some other delicacy delivered personally is a much better way to remember friends and family than a meaningless generic gift, a "dustable" to sit on the shelf or yet another ill-fitting sweater in the wrong color. And most older people need even fewer things. Unfortunately, what they really want—youth, vigor, health—are things we can't give them. But they, and I'm sure many others, would appreciate a call, a card or a visit from family, neighbors and friends. So will you.

Daniel Fink wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

gima' Yuus desde misa, fina' lisayu, interu, lukau, nobena yan sele-brasion patron soñgsoñg.

Manñge' na dinaña sa' kanaha' todus man-gai pinadese desde daibites, putin tomu yan dinalag, chenot korason, chatmata, yan chatfitme fangu' ot kanai niha 'sino mamokat. Hu sen agradese i to'a, pasensia yan antau na konketsasion ginen todus. Un' manadan chaleg gi hilu' grasia.

Hu gacha' unu hagas pitbetsu na ha e'eñgulu' un' bonitan hobensisita. Hu faisen haf' gaige hinassoña. Chumaleg ya ilegña, "Ai, Iku, kulan madiliñgdiñg telefon. Guaha 'nai hu oppe, guaha ha' lokue' 'nai ti hu oppe". Pindehu!

Dispues hu batbaruye un' biha pot che'chu' kasamiento. Guiya lokue' duru chumaleg na 'an mattu, paire. Pa'gu 'an appenas, pues parehu ha' yan nigapña, taya'!

**Chat-regalu ginen CUC**

'Nos kuantos años malofan desde ke hunae' i CUC \$3.5 miyon pesus para una-areglia i makinan elektrisa gi Lower Base. Ensegidas humalomu un' kompania ya ha katsu nesessidat kanet pot para uma-areglia i yinireta' siha.

I makinan kandet esta 35 años idat niha. Amku' i makina siha ya dudayu' kau malañgag mañgalamen otru siñko 'sino dies años. Ti apmam yan pa'gu siempre u homhum i tanu'. Mientras tantos sige ha' man-mana' yan hit mas apas kandet pot dibin

## Where's the Christian compassion?

By KAREN OWEN

THE FREE-LANCE STAR (FREDERICKSBURG, VA.)

**Y**ears ago, I wrote a column that asked whether the term "Christian conservative" was an oxymoron. At that time, I'd seen little evidence of the compassionate conservatism that George W. Bush had called for, and it seems we've gone downhill since.

How can we call ourselves—and practically insist that we are—a Christian nation when we seemingly ignore so many of the teachings of Christ?

Isn't compassion part of it? Or was that just my imagination as a little girl attending Sunday school at the family Presbyterian church?

Didn't the Golden Rule mention something about treating others as you would wish to be treated yourself?

If Hallmark replaces "gay" with "fun" on a Christmas ornament featuring the words from "Deck the Halls," why aren't we bothered by the insult to a subset of the U.S. population?

If we see someone down on his luck standing at the entrance to the highway, holding a sign saying "Please help," we don't just look away—some of us actively despise that person. If he's poor, or mentally ill, or out of a job, or a substance abuser, well, it's his fault (I'm not my brother's keeper).

If Virginia ranks 46th in its commitment to Medicaid, while being one of the country's wealthier states, we don't address how the poor or uninsured are less worthy of health care. Instead, we say derisively that they're just looking for "free stuff."

If government shutdown results in furloughed workers not receiving a paycheck, we say: fire them—we don't need their services, and we don't care what happens to them or their families.

If a young person can't find a job because business—not government—won't hire here at home but instead prefers to make big profits for itself and its shareholders while hiring someone in India to do the work, we call that person "feral" if he urinates in the park or has no place to live.

If the federal deficit reaches such levels that we all admit government programs must be pared down, we say, begin with Social Security, or food stamps, or formula for babies—babies who are living and breathing right now. It wouldn't occur to us to look at the military-industrial complex. Billions spent on "security" by NSA? Also not mentioned.

If Congress enacts legislation that offers assistance to the less fortunate—something somehow provided by every other developed nation—we say, don't turn us into a socialist state. We don't need your stinkin' help, thank you very much, and no one else should be a beneficiary, either.

Bus service, so that the less fortunate can get to a job should they be lucky enough to find one? Why should my tax dollars pay for their transportation?

When President Obama makes a mistake or misleads, we use words such as "liar," "Manchurian," "Muslim," "traitor" and "despot," and ask why, oh why, hasn't he yet been impeached? We could use less incendiary words to make our point, but choose not to.

I'd like to think that this is not representative of most Americans,

CUC 'nos kuantos miyon pesus.

Yangin ti mana' praibet i CUC (privatize) pues mas guaguan na kobransa para tafan makobla desde otru sakan. 'An mana' praibet, pues siempre u halom un' kompania ni siña umareglia i sistema sin u hatsa apas kandet. Gaige este na asuntu gi representante-ta gi lehislatura.

■■■

Che'chu' pitbetseria 'in saragate' un' talayeru. Sige prohimu kumahat mientras in' arereglia lokue' i mechan dikiki' na dinamita. 'Nai ha katsague' sumehan ñaihon. Gigon kumahat ta'lu 'in dagau i mecha. Dibera ha tira talayaña ya kontodu guuya. Esta a'asu 'nai sige chumafinu'. A' Saina!

■■■

Ha faisenu' amiguho Magoo haf' na sige ha' mas guaguan i kandet, fektus, gaselina, yan otru siha nesessidat familia. Tihu tuñgu' umoppe' sa' kontodu guahu mañuñufa' gi halom mattirun tiempu. Pues pot chaleg hu achetge na uniku remediu i para u para humaguñg. De dios!

■■■

Man-espiñipayu' lusuñg yan gachonñga achu' guleg pot guaha 'nai hu tañga linemog sune yan lemai. Sumen makat na achu' ya maseha ta soda' guaha na maulegña ti un' imbelekeruye 'sino mana' dinalalag hau. Po'lu dialu. Tanai sisida para bai' maguaguadiñg gi lemlem tautau pot hu chule' kosas antigua ni ti iyoghu.

but I'm not so sure. The same people calling the kettle black complain bitterly about insults to the tea party. But it's OK to call names if Obama is the target. Remember a time when it was considered unpatriotic to bad-mouth the president, even when we disagreed with him? I do.

And speaking of patriotism, what I love most—coming almost exclusively from the right—is the reference to themselves as "patriots," or "real Americans." Supposedly, they're the only ones who really have respect for—or understanding of—the Constitution. Only they know what our Founding Fathers had in mind, and they're happy to interpret it for us.

Ah, yes, they're patriots. Much the same as the Dallas Cowboys calling themselves "America's team." The implication is clear: The rest of us don't care about America. We want the U.S. to fail.

In my book, these not-so-polite people who seethe or call for rebellion are anything but patriotic. Anyone—Dems, too!—who forgets that government requires compromise needs a serious lesson in civics. The process requires a willingness to at least listen to the other side. It requires an ability to realize that the sun doesn't shine on the same lazy dog's tail all the time. Sometimes, one's candidate doesn't win the election.

When that happens, party leaders must lick their wounds, roll up their sleeves, do some soul-searching and continue on with the work of government.

Now, I'll admit that it was bad that Obamacare was pushed through without the vote of one Republican. But elections have consequences. It was also bad that Nancy Pelosi said we had to read the bill to discover what was in it. Today, its rollout has been the very definition of dysfunction.

But it is equally bad that we have no problem with poor people or the uninsured dying rather than receiving quality medical care.

It's bad when we allow one school system to be woefully inferior to another, and do nothing about it. It's bad that the mentally ill have little recourse but to sleep in homeless shelters or under a bridge. It's bad when our veterans have trouble receiving what few benefits or treatment they deserve after service to our country. It's bad that we don't care.

And if we do care, and raising taxes is what it would take to fix what ails us, we are opposed. On General Principle. We don't want Big Government. We want better highways, safe food, new school buildings and relief if a hurricane hits, but we're opposed to paying for it or for helping anyone, no matter how deserving.

I'm ready to hear real ideas from the right as to how it proposes to deal with social issues. Not anger at Obama and the Dems. Not name-calling or finger-pointing, but thoughtful proposals. I have yet to hear what they are. The Party of No wasn't always so mean-spirited. Neither was our "Christian nation."

I'm waiting. I don't expect a response other than an attack on our president, or on me for having the temerity to ask for workable solutions. But I wait nonetheless.

*Karen Owen is Viewpoints editor of The Free Lance-Star in Fredericksburg, Va. Readers may send her email at [kowen@freelancestar.com](mailto:kowen@freelancestar.com).*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°

## Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Palau	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 89 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 80

## Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲ 72 ▼ 65
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 52 ▼ 25
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 75 ▼ 61
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 68
London	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 37
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 62 ▼ 42
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 75
Melbourne	Rain	▲ 59 ▼ 46
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 69
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 52 ▼ 46
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 58 ▼ 47
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 41
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 58 ▼ 42
Rome	Sunny	▲ 56 ▼ 40
Salem	Sunny	▲ 39 ▼ 23
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 55 ▼ 35
Seoul	Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 30
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 42
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 55 ▼ 51

## Tides

### Sunrise/Sunset

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:29 AM	5:46 PM	Today	8:24 AM	8:11 PM
Friday	6:30AM	5:46 PM	Friday	9:21 AM	9:13 PM
Saturday	6:30AM	5:46 PM	Saturday	10:14 AM	10:14 PM
Sunday	6:31AM	5:46 PM	Sunday	11:04 AM	11:12 PM
Monday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM	Monday	11:50 AM	

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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#### ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

#### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

#### BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

#### SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

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Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

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Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

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Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

#### For announcements:

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Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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**FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2013**

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2013

DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>			<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>		
UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily			UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily		
UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily			UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily		
UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6			UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7		
UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily			UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily		
UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily			UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily		
<b>SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)</b>			<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b>		
UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7			UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6		
<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b>			<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b>		
UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7			UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6		
<b>SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)</b>			<b>PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN</b>		
DL287 6:05am 11:25pm 2, 6 via NRT			DL298 4:35am 3:00pm 3, 7 via NRT		
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b>			<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b>		
DL287 6:05am 8:40am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6			DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily		
DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily			DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7		
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b>			<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b>		
OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7			OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7		
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b>			<b>SEOUL (ICN)-</b>		

# SIS Thanksgiving feast benefits Haiyan victims, Red Cross



Hundreds of parents and community members joined the celebration, including, from left, Carolyn Pierce, Dr. Janet McCullough and Dr. Tony Stearns.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School continues to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> year of educational excellence with community gatherings that highlight the school's diversity and commitment to public service.

Last week, America's Thanksgiving holiday was the focus for a multinational feast

that fed hundreds of eager participants but even more importantly, focused on the "sharing and gratitude" virtues that resulted in 1,340 canned-foods

collected for the Typhoon Haiyan victims in The Philippines. Moreover, SIS raised \$720 in cash donations for the Red Cross via a turkey raffle. (PR)



The Philippines table went above and beyond this year with a deliciously roasted full-sized pig.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



SIS teacher Adam Harris with 8th graders who happily served the American Thanksgiving staples of turkey, gravy and stuffing.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The "Malaysia: Truly Asia" table treated diners to fantastic curry. From left, May Ling Colombo and Lydia Tan host Bob Bracken and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



As always, the Korea table was the largest and offered a wide variety of spicy and delectable dishes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Devoted parents worked the early-morning shift to prepare the international feast.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Students pose with 1,340 canned foods collected for Typhoon Haiyan victims.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Essential Home Storage 36" Wide Cabinet \$279.95	Closetmaid Magic Bullet Nutri-Bullet \$139.95	Jack La Lanne's Power Juicer \$135.95	Hamilton Beach Health Smart 350 Watt Juice Extractor \$39.95	Essential Home 4-Square Server \$25.95	Hampton Forge 48pc Kitchen Starter Set \$45.95	HP Wireless Keyboard & Mouse \$39.95				
RCA CD Music System with Bluetooth Wireless \$119.95	LG Stylish Sound Bar \$175.95	Seiki 50" LED TV \$749.95	Panasonic Smart Network Blu-Ray Disc Player \$124.95	Sony 120 Watt Home Audio System Boombox \$159.95	HP Wireless Keyboard & Mouse \$39.95					

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

# Bank of Guam supports deployed Guam Guardsmen

By SGT EDDIE SIGUENZA  
GUAM ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

**CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan**—The soldiers of Task Force Guam received support once again from one of their island's longest-running businesses.

Guam Army National Guardsmen stationed at nearly a dozen locations in Afghanistan received children's artwork courtesy of Bank of Guam, one of Guam's oldest institutions, in cooperation with the Guam National Guard's Family Programs Office. Hundreds of drawings reached the soldiers serving Operation Enduring Freedom and majority is displayed on office walls, billeting rooms, and even inside tactical vehicles.

"Our Family Readiness Groups and Family Programs Office worked together, reaching out to the community," said Sharleen R. Perez, Guam Family Readiness support assistant. "The results were amazing; many children participated and provided personal touches on their artwork. Their projects will be given to our deployed soldiers."

According to Perez, Bank of Guam reached out to the Fam-



U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/SGT. GLORIA BABAUTA

Members of Foxtrot Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, show their enthusiasm after receiving children's artwork late November at Kandahar Airfield, Kandahar province, Afghanistan. The Guam National Guard's Family Programs Office coordinated with a financial institution to have children draw and color for Guam Soldiers serving Operation Enduring Freedom.

ily Programs Office and wanted to do something special for the deployed service members. The financial institution received a \$1,500 grant from the Armed Forces Financial Network and

wanted to work with the Guam Guard's Family Readiness Groups to see how it can have children provide artwork for those deployed.

Bank of Guam named this

project *Hu Hahasso Hao*, which means "Thinking of You," themed appropriately for the Guam Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment.

Approximately 600 soldiers



U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Spc. Layla T. Jesus and Spc. Crystal A. Stewart of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, stand before children's artwork at their Camp Stone, Herat province, Afghanistan, office in late November. The drawings were done by Guam children and sent to those serving Operation Enduring Freedom.



U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/SGT. GLORIA BABAUTA

Soldiers from the Guam Army National Guard's Foxtrot Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, display artwork drawn by Guam children late November at Kandahar Airfield, Kandahar province, Afghanistan. Hundreds of drawings were sent to Guam's nearly 600 Guardsmen serving Operation Enduring Freedom.

are wrapping up their OEF mission and will return home in a matter of weeks.

"We appreciate the cooperation of the Guam National Guard Family Programs Office, Bank of Guam, and the children who took the time to provide these drawings," said Capt. Joey San Nicolas, Echo Company commander. "The soldiers enjoy the artwork. Our office is decorated with them. They bring a touch of home to our area of operations."

"While working with Bank of Guam, we came up with a venue (Hagatna Shopping Center) that will be open to everyone to take part of the project," Perez said. "The young participants were able to submit their artwork and receive a prize from Bank of Guam. How could they resist the free 'yellow ribbon' face painting!"

We also had children interact with rear detachment soldiers. These soldiers were able to talk about their jobs and responsibilities in the military."

Bank of Guam is the island's largest financial institution that also operates in California and locations throughout the South Pacific. At least five Guam

Guardsmen deployed to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom—including Bravo Company's Sgt. Cliff Tajeron, Delta Company's Spc. Rusty P. Santos, Echo Company's Spc. Gerald M.C. Borja, and Charlie Company's Spc. Joshua D. Bernardo and Spc. Greg J. Pecina—are employed with the Bank of Guam.

"Everyone appreciates the support we get from our community. This is an example of the tremendous assistance that has helped our soldiers throughout this deployment," said Lt. Col. Michael Tougher, Task Force Guam commander. "It's very meaningful because the artwork came from our children. Everyone's touched by this."

"Island unity" is how Capt. Romeo Sanchez described the community effort. Sanchez, Delta Company commander at Camp Stone, Herat province, said,

"This is something very special for the soldiers in Afghanistan. Children put their personal touches on these works of art. These were dedicated to us and we really appreciate the efforts of everyone involved."

"The event was an overall success. Bank of Guam looks forward to working with us again," Perez said. "We can't wait to see what else we will be doing for our military. When deployed service members receive this artwork, we know they'll take the time to appreciate the wonderful work done by the many little hands. They know that it may be a small gesture of appreciation, however they appreciate our military with their big hearts!"

The Family Readiness Support Assistant program mission statement is "To empower commanders in their duty to deliver the Total Army Family Program (AR 600-20) so that soldiers and families are entitled, informed, educated, assisted, and made ready for the unique demands of military life before, during, and after deployment."

# Combat engineers execute explosives training on Tinian

By LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO  
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI

**TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands**—Combat engineers transformed Charlie runway into a demolition range on Nov. 29 at Tinian's North Field to expand the runway capabilities.

The purpose of the demolition was to clear runway Charlie and cross-train with Marines from other sections in explosives use.

Forager Fury II is a joint exercise designed to employ and assess combat power generation in a deployed and austere environment. The Marines are with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"Today, we're doing a demo shoot, to mostly remove trees that [heavy equipment] had trouble removing," said 1st Lt. Taylor Keithley, a platoon commander of MWSS-171. "Marines are receiving training with expedite charges, shape charges, and other charges. This is something we don't get to do very often in



LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO

Marines stack against one another behind a Tractor Rubber-tired Articulated Steering Multipurpose vehicle on Nov. 29 at Charlie runway demolition range during an explosion in exercise Forager Fury II.

the MWSS."

Operations on Tinian allow Marines to get hands-on dem-

onstrations and build their efficiency handling explosives, according to Keithley.

"This training prepares for real world operations in the event that we have to set up a landing field on an island and fight pretty much anywhere," said Keithley. "Here we're prepared to clear a runway so MAG-12 can land [fixed-wing aircraft]."

This training provides Marines cross-training in other military occupational specialties participating in FF II, according Sgt. David Noe, a foreman with MWSS-171.

"There's always going to be various MOSs where ever you

go so learning different ones and adapting to your situation important," said Noe.

The Marines used C4 and TNT during the demo, and stressed the importance of safety while detonating charges, according to Noe.

"Safety is the most important thing," said Lance Cpl. Tristan Armstrong. "Everyone is a safety officer and everyone needs to understand the consequences of their actions in the demo. If they don't, then they can't participant in the demo, because it takes just a single

mistake to be catastrophic, even mishandling the smallest piece of demo."

While maintaining safety and gaining experience were paramount to the training, it was the ability to work with other sections that truly made the range a success, according to Keithley.

"We actually get to work in tangent with our [heavy equipment] and [motor transportation] brothers and we get to come together as a team," said Keithley. "Today, we really got to see how the MWSS fights as a whole."



Lance Cpl. Tristan Armstrong, left, demonstrates how to properly charge C4 Nov. 29 at Charlie runway during a demolition range in Exercise Forager Fury II.



Lance Cpl. Johnny Gomez, center, assembles C4 and TNT charges to demolish trees on Nov. 29 at Charlie runway during a demolition range in exercise Forager Fury II.

## APIL board meeting kicks off in Guam

**HAGATNA, Guam**—The 54th Meeting of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures' board of directors began yesterday at the Guam Legislature. Representatives from 12 Pacific island governments will be meeting at the Legislature until Friday to discuss an array of issues affecting the region.

"This is a critical time for the leaders of our region to work together to ensure that our people are healthy and prosperous in our islands," said Speaker Won Pat, who is the current APIL

president. "I will be encouraging my fellow Pacific Island leaders to strengthen the role APIL plays in our region, because it truly is a powerful body that can use its voice to make a difference for our people."

Yesterday's presentations from various community organizations focused on Micronesia Youth Services Network and Payuta, Inc.; Preventing Human Trafficking in the Pacific Region; The 12th Festival of Pacific Arts; and Reach Out Pacific: Projects and Services

out of Hawaii.

APIL delegates also challenged representatives from the Guam Legislature in a friendship softball game at Agana Heights Softball Field last night.

The 12 Pacific Island governments represented in APIL are American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap, Republic of the Marshall Islands Palau, Hawaii, Guam, Nauru, and Kiribati. (PR)

## Grief support meeting on Dec. 12

The December meeting of the grief support group for parents and siblings that normally meets on the first Thursday of each month will be held on Thursday, Dec. 12, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

We offer understanding and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause. We provide a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences, while respecting

and supporting each other, and listening. We have "been there." We do not espouse any specific religious or philosophical ideology. There is no "right way" to grieve, and family members are welcome to come to share or just to listen.

The meeting is modeled on The Compassionate Friends, whose mission is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more

than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and Guam offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died.

For more information, call Jill Derickson at 287-5337 or email jilld@pticom.com. To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatelfriends.org. (PR)

# Care Club fundraiser nets \$1.3K for Haiyan relief efforts

The Tinian Care Club fundraiser for Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda relief efforts on Nov. 30, 2013, was a certified success, thanks to the joint effort of the Mayor of Tinian's Office, UNIFIL, and the Tinian Lions Club.

Tinian first lady Doris Dela Cruz said, "It was great fun. So many people came out to play bingo and just support the effort to help those people who are suffering from the typhoon in the Philippines."

Dela Cruz created the Care Club during the first year of her husband's administration. "This is an easy and fun way for us to help people outside the government. On Friday and Saturday evenings, the mayor will turn on the utilities at the Antonio M. Borja Amphitheater, so we can have a public bingo to help raise funds for people in need. Sometimes it is for medical needs, sometimes for education. It isn't a lot but it helps. Most of all, it is good to see our people coming together to share," said Dela Cruz.

Last Saturday, the Tinian Care Club was able to raise \$1,300. The Care Club will write a check for that amount to the CNMI Chapter of the American Red Cross, who will send it to where it is needed most in the Philippine relief effort. (PR)

Bingo prizes donated by the Mayor of Tinian's Office and UNIFIL.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Many people turn out for the Tinian Care Club's bingo fundraiser for Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda relief efforts on Nov. 30, 2013



## Fiesta treats man'amko to Thanksgiving luncheon



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan hosted its yearly Thanksgiving luncheon more than 70 man'amko and staff of the Aging Office on Nov. 27 this year.

The island's senior citizens were treated to roasted turkey, glazed ham, and a variety of traditional dishes that are enjoyed during Thanksgiving.

Fiesta Resort & Spa general manager Abner Acosta gave a warm word of welcome to the man'amko, saying the event was also to count everyone's many blessings and good health not only at Thanksgiving but throughout the coming years.

The man'amko were also entertained by the Tasi Polynesian Show and had a chance to dance, with some gift certificates as prizes. (PR)



## Free film shows 'being green' through the ages

First Friday Films is inviting the public to the American Memorial Park on Friday, Dec. 6, at 6:30pm for a free showing of *A Fierce Green Fire*.

*A Fierce Green Fire* is an amazing take on the history of the environmental movement over the last 50 years, from the beginning of conservation to modern times. The film shows footage of conservation of the Grand Canyon in the '60s, the Love Canal battle of the '70s, Greenpeace's controversial campaigns, the '80s crisis to save the Amazon, and the current conversation about climate change. Each act of the film sheds new light on the most famous environmental battles of the last century, and it is a must-see for anyone who studies, works, or plays in the environment.

Before the film, Dr. Peter Peshut will introduce the events in the film by sharing his experiences living and working in the environmental field through

each of these decades. Peshut has earned degrees in civil engineering, marine biology, and environmental science and has worked for nearly 30 years on environmental issues in both the government and private sectors. Nineteen of those years have been spent in the Pacific Islands, including American Samoa, Palau, FSM, Hawaii, Guam and the CNMI.

First Friday Films is a partnership between American Memorial Park, the Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resources Management, and the Humanities Council, with support from other organizations and individuals. This particular film is sponsored by DEQ. As always, our film events are free and open to the public. This event will run about two hours.

For more information about First Friday Films, email [fff-saipan@gmail.com](mailto:fff-saipan@gmail.com) or check out [www.firstfridayfilms-saipan.blogspot.com](http://www.firstfridayfilms-saipan.blogspot.com). (DEQ)

## CHamoru language classes to host 'Puengen Minagof 2013'

### »A Christmas celebration of CHamoru language and culture

On Dec. 6 from 5:30pm to 9pm, the University of Guam CHamoru language students will be hosting *Puengen Minagof Nochebuena*, in the Humanities and Social Sciences Building. *Puengen Minagof* is an annual celebration of CHamoru language and culture organized by CHamoru language instructors at the University of Guam. CHamoru language students in classes ranging from beginner to advanced will be performing in CHamoru Christmas-themed activities.

Students will perform a nativity play, recite slam poetry, and

will sing a variety of CHamoru Christmas carols. Refreshments will be available, most importantly *boñelos*. This *Puengen Minagof* will feature many types of *boñelos* that people may be familiar with, and many new flavors one might not expect.

The making of a *bilen*, or a nativity scene, is an important part of CHamoru culture during this time of year. Groups of students will be working together to create their own interpretation of this important cultural tradition. These *bilen* will be on display and will be competing for the "Best *Bilen*" award. The public is invited to attend and vote for the "People's Choice Award" *Bilen*.

The event is free and open to the public. (UOG)

# Guam Nat'l Guard battalion now preparing to go home

Task Force Guam, also known as 1-294<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, is preparing to start its redeployment process from Afghanistan, to their mobilization site at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, according to Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, Guam National Guard Adjutant General.

The unit is tentatively expected to start their redeployment process sometime in the middle of next month, and may last through early January.

"The island community has provided a tremendous amount of support to our deployed troops and their families. As

our battalion begins its journey back home, I am very confident that people of Guam will be prepared and ready to welcome our warriors home with open arms," Paulino said.

The battalion's close to 600 soldiers deployed to Afghanistan early this year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-

Afghanistan.

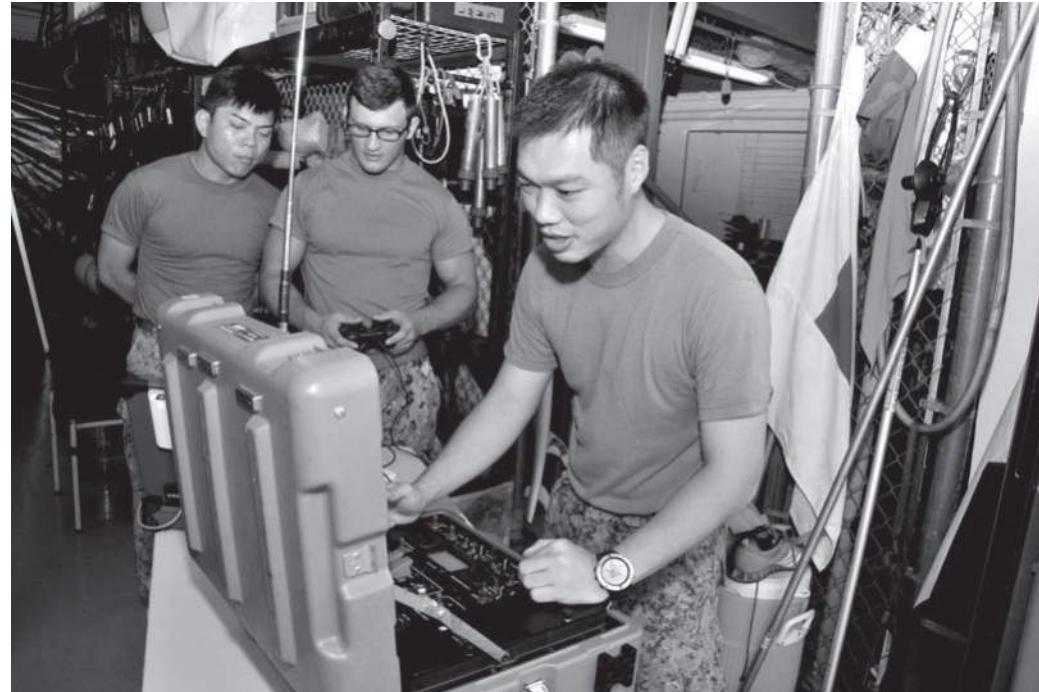
The unit began its deployment, flying to Camp Shelby in February, where they conducted their mobilization training for several weeks, before proceeding to their mission locations in Afghanistan. Once in country, they were dubbed "Task Force Guam."

The Guam Guardsmen were dispersed throughout Afghanistan, covering thousands of square miles, with a mission of providing security forces, guardian angels and personal security detachments. Its overall mission was to support the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan's effort establishing

an Afghan-led security force.

The 1-294<sup>th</sup> IN RGT is composed of soldiers from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The activation of the 1-294<sup>th</sup> IN RGT is largest group of reserve component troops to be mobilized and deployed from Guam. (PR)



▲ Members of the Republic of Singapore Navy operate a Talon robot with guidance from Explosive Ordnance Disposal 3rd Class Jacob Trefney, from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5, center, during the bi-annual Miata Exercise at the EODMU-5 compound on U.S. Naval Base Guam on Dec. 3.

JESSE LEON GUERRERO

## Ordnance disposal unit tie up with Singapore's navy for joint training

By JESSE LEON GUERRERO  
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—Sailors from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 partnered with members of the Republic of Singapore Navy for the bi-annual Miata Exercise that kicked off at U.S. Naval Base Guam on Dec. 3.

The joint training builds interoperability between the two groups who have a continued working agreement. The exercise will continue through Dec. 14.

"This is something we enjoy doing and it enhances our ability to develop and integrate our [explosive ordnance disposal] techniques," said Lt. j.g. Joseph Lynch, EODMU-5. "They're a very reputable force with extremely well-developed capabilities. We hope to exchange our ideas and information so we can see how they operate, and hopefully integrate some of their tactics into our future operations."

EODMU-5 deploys and employs tailored EOD units to locate, identify, render safe and remove conventional, chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological, and improvised explosive hazards in order to enable access for joint, naval, and special operations forces within the Western Pacific Theater of Operations and elsewhere, when directed.

Since these movements were done through remote

controls, it promoted the use of precise movements and decision-making. These robots help minimize the danger to EOD technicians by allowing them to identify and handle ordnance at a distance.

EOD 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Jacob Trefney said he was glad to work with the RSN and learn from their counterparts as it strengthens the relationship between the two nations.

"It's definitely an awesome opportunity for everyone involved," he said. "We can see each other run drills, see each other's equipment, how they use their equipment and the different adaptions that they've added."

During the Miata Exercise, EODMU-5 and RSN plan to perform render safe procedures, respond to a simulated threat aboard ship and conduct other trainings at various sites that will help round out their knowledge of explosives handling and response.

EODMU-5 practiced using RSN's PackBot to investigate a bag with a potential threat, while RNS members used EODMU-5's Talon Mark II to maneuver around an obstacle and to pick up and transport batteries into a container.



▲ Lt. j.g. Joseph Lynch, right, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal 3rd Class Aaron Burghardt, center, both from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5, work with a Republic of Singapore Navy sailor as he controls a Talon Mark II robot during the bi-annual Miata Exercise at the EODMU-5 compound on U.S. Naval Base Guam on Dec. 3.

JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5's Explosive Ordnance Disposal 3rd Class Kevin Posten, right, gives directions to a Republic of Singapore Navy sailor as they practice driving one of EODMU-5's high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles at the Orote airfield on U.S. Naval Base Guam on Dec. 3.

JESSE LEON GUERRERO

In Loving Memory

## Antonia Palacios Duenas de la Rosa

"Tona" – "Toni"

September 17, 1936 – December 1, 2013

Of Dededo and formerly of Saipan, was called home by our heavenly Father at the age of 77.

Mass of Intention is being offered weeknights at 7 p.m. followed by the praying of the rosary at Santa Barbara Catholic Church (Lower Level) in Dededo.

*In her new life, Antonia will be met at the gates of heaven by her*

**Parents:** Jose Villagomez Duenas and Nieves Palacios Duenas, **Sons:** Donald Duenas de la Rosa, Joseph Duenas de la Rosa, **Brothers and Spouses:** Pedro Palacios and Lucia A. Duenas, Antonio Palacios and Dolores F. Duenas, Jose Palacios Duenas, **Sisters and Spouses:** Dolores D. and Domicio Babauta, Rita D. and Robert Hawkey Sr., **Son-In-Law:** Jeffrey N. Maratita, **Parents-In-Law:** Hipolito Ofena de la Rosa and Julian Eisma de la Rosa (Philippines), **Brothers-In-Law:** Gil Eisma de la Rosa (Philippines), Atty. Benjamin Eisma de la Rosa (Philippines), Atty. Arturo Eisma de la Rosa (Philippines)

*Antonia's love and memories will be cherished and missed forever in the hearts of her*

**Husband:** Antonio Eisma de la Rosa

**Sons / Daughters and Spouses (Grandchildren):** Frances DLR, And Martin C. Pangelinan (Christlaine, Maxine, Francine / Jared, and Martin Jr. / Crystal); Rudy D. and Nora S. de la Rosa (Nieves / Rhiner, and Noreen / Hiram); Joseph D. and Mary M. de la Rosa (Joseph Jr. / Adela, Maisy / John, and Antoly); William D. and Elinor G. de la Rosa (Allan / Jessica, Mark Gil, Lilian, Odesa / Noboy Henry, Gisel / Mike, Sheryl, and Julie); Vivian DLR, and Mariano S. Palacios (Marla / Christopher, Xyleene, and Anthony); Robert D. de la Rosa; Juliania DLR, And Raymond P. Mendoza (Jerry II, Jiana, and Kierstin); Nora DLR, And Michael A. Santos

**Brothers and Spouses:** Ignacio P. and Trinidad C. Duenas, Jose P. and Rufina Duenas; **Sisters and Spouses:** Martina D. and Vicente Camacho, Maria D. and Joseph Wineinger; **Brothers / Sisters-In-Law and Spouses:** Dr. Juan and Cirila Komiya (Philippines), Alfredo and Anastacia Frigilana (Philippines)

*35 great-grandchildren and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends will also miss her.*

Last Respects for Antonia will be held on Friday, December 6th from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Guam Memorial Funeral Home, 191 Bibic Street (entrance to Guam Memorial Park) in Leyang – Barrigada. A final Blessing will commence at 12 noon. Interment will follow at Guam Memorial Park, where we will bid her farewell and a peaceful rest.

Guam Memorial Funeral Home

# GCA congratulates the November PGFC winners

The administration, faculty and staff, and parents of Grace Christian Academy would like to extend their congratulations to the following winners and everyone who participated in the second Primary Grades Forensic Conference competition held at Grace Christian Academy last Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013. PGFC competition encouraged public and private school students to participate in and become proficient in the forensic arts: reading, public speaking, and interpretations.

## K-2 DIVISION

### Impromptu Speaking A

Timothy Neal, 1st place  
Kei Lizama, 2nd place  
Rex Adam Pixley, 3rd place  
Briston James Jones, 4th place

### Impromptu Speaking B

William Matthew Cano, 1st place  
Janus Roman Calayo, 2nd place  
Ethan John Quichocho, 3rd place  
Yellena Sarang Kim, 4th place  
Maria Natsuko Takeda, 5th place

### Readers Forum Masters A

Julianne Rue Magtalas, 2nd place  
Juriel Neilan Magtalas, 3rd place  
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 5th place

### Readers Forum Masters B

Kei Lizama, 2nd place

### Dramatic Interpretation A

Moira Grace Ernest, 1st place  
Eunice Nicole Pagaduan, 4th place

### Humorous Interpretation A

Tae Hee Kim, 2nd place  
Moira Grace Ernest, 3rd place



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's PGFC winners in November have their picture taken inside the school campus.

### Duo Interpretation B

Elijah Kosang Mizutani, 1st place  
Lance Andrei Lerio, 1st place

### Choral Speaking A

Briston James Jones, 5th place  
Katelyn Mafnas, 5th place  
Timothy Neal, 5th place  
Eunice Nicole Pagaduan, 5th place

### Choral Speaking B

Azriel Fatialofa, 3rd place  
Kai Owens, 3rd place  
Earl Jean Pantaleon, 3rd place  
Yellena Sarang Kim, 3rd place

### Impromptu Speaking B

Gianpaolo Borromeo, 1st place

### William Matthew Cano, 3rd place

### 3-5 Division

### Impromptu Speaking A

James Alexander Keaton, 1st place  
Na Christy Lee, 2nd place  
Brandie Matsumoto, 3rd place  
Jacob Anthony De Leon Guerrero, 4th place

### Impromptu Speaking B

Steven Adriatico, 1st place  
Ryan Daproza, 5th place

### Reader's Forum Masters A

Mikaelah Owens, 1st place  
Na Christy Lee, 3rd place  
Deancey Adriel Chua, 5th place

### Reader's Forum Masters B

Anna Camille Nunez, 1st place

### place

Matthew Gabriel Ernest, 5th place

### Dramatic Interpretation A

Steven Adriatico, 4th place

### Humorous Interpretation A

Jacob Anthony De Leon Guerrero, 5th place

### Duo Interpretation A

Gianpaolo Borromeo, 5th place  
Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 5th place

### Choral Speaking A

Jaiden Kayla Sabugo, 1st place

Miriella Dilse, 1st place

Elliot Lee, 1st place

Jonathan Lee, 1st place

**PGFC Coordinator:** Esther Manzano

**K5 Coach:** Galilee Neal

**Volunteer judges:** Paulo Montecarlo, Merriam Cabading, Rowena Libut, Laila Portuguez, Beatrice Fatialofa, Alaine Baco, Emman Parian, Minna Ito, Yujin Lee

## Guam Legislature to hold relief drive for Haiyan victims in Palau

**HAGĀTÑA, Guam**—The Guam Legislature is organizing a relief drive for the Palauan victims of Supertyphoon Haiyan this Friday, Dec. 6 from 4pm to 6pm at both the ITC and Maga'lāhi Kepuha intersections.

On its path to the Philippines, Supertyphoon Haiyan hit Kayangel, the northernmost island of the Republic of Palau on Nov. 7, 2013. The residents of Kayangel suffered great damage from sustained winds of about 160 miles per hour with gusts to about 175 miles per hour. All but two buildings on the island were destroyed. Corn

and taro farms were also damaged during the storm. It will be years before the island recovers from this damage.

Speaker Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D., invited both the Office of the Governor and the Judiciary of Guam to participate in the drive.

“Supertyphoon Haiyan’s damaging winds did not spare our region, causing incredible hardship for our sisters and brothers in Kayangel,” said Won Pat. “I ask all our people to show their support this Friday by giving what they can to help rebuild the homes, farms, school and clinic that were ravaged by the storm.”

Sen. Tina Muña Barnes also emphasized the importance of helping the Palauan victims of Supertyphoon Haiyan. “As an honorary Palauan, I was saddened to learn of the devastation caused by Supertyphoon Haiyan on the island of Kayangel,” stated Muña Barnes. “It is important that our island community show the same spirit of generosity to our Palauan brothers and sisters that we showed to the Philippines.”

The Kayangel Club of Guam and other Palauan community groups will be present at the typhoon relief drive. (PR)

## CCA invites public to Paseo tree decorating

5, and Friday, Dec. 6.

The CCA is asking those joining in the decorating to bring different colors of ribbons from home.

The CCA tree will light up the Paseo de Marianas, along with trees from other community groups and schools, during the entirety of the Christmas season. The CCA extends a

Merry Christmas to the CNMI community, to survivors and their families, and to the caregivers, healthcare workers, and to the hardworking CCA partners and volunteers.

For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or by email at [ccamarianas@gmail.com](mailto:ccamarianas@gmail.com) or log on to its website at [www.ccamarianas.org](http://www.ccamarianas.org). (CCA)

ing a six-month deployment in support of 7th Fleet operations in the Western Pacific. The detachment operated MH-60S Knighthawk helicopters to provide continuous search and rescue support, anti-surface warfare, special operations forces support, and high-value unit protection to USS *Bonhomme Richard*, which is the Navy's only forward-deployed multi-purpose amphibious assault ship. During the deployment, Detachment 1 also supported the George Washington Strike Group, Commander, Task Force 70, Commander, Destroyer Squadron 15, and numerous Australian naval vessels.

Detachment 1 was one of the first U.S. Naval Rotary Wing assets to arrive in the Philippines to aid and survey the devastation caused by Super Typhoon Haiyan. Detachment 1 assisted in humanitarian aid and disaster relief efforts by delivering more than 70,000 lbs of drinking water, 18,000 lbs of food and 16,000 lbs of diesel fuel, and completing numerous passenger transfers.

Detachment 6 returns follow-

In addition to providing SAR support underway, HSC-25 provides 24-hour search and rescue and medical evacuation services for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands as well as special operations forces support, anti-surface warfare and personnel recovery training to local and visiting forces. (PR)

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HOMEFRONT [CC,DV] (NR)	(530 PM) 755 PM
DELIVERY MAN [CC,DV] (PG-13)	(430 PM) 720 PM
HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE [CC,DV] (PG-13)	(330 PM) 630 PM 700 PM
THOR: THE DARK WORLD [CC,DV] (PG-13)	(400 PM)
THOR: THE DARK WORLD 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13)	715 PM
ENDER'S GAME [CC,DV] (PG-13)	(410 PM)
FREE BIRDS [CC] (PG)	(415 PM)
CAPTAIN PHILLIPS [CC,DV] (PG-13)	710 PM

## 'Aging Center not a nursing home for elderly'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI's Aging Center is often mistaken as a nursing home for the island's elderly and it is about time that this misconception be corrected, according to Aging Center executive director Walter Manglona.

"They mistake this place as a nursing home but it's not. Our Aging Center functions like a daycare center for our senior citizens. They come here and avail of the services and return home after each day's programs and activities," explained Manglona in a recent visit to his office. He said he wants to enlighten the public on what the department's role and functions are all about.

According to him, the center accommodates over 80 senior citizens daily. These are active elderly who physically participate in the activities offered at the center. He expects the number to grow as more applications are pending for review.

"We encourage them to come in everyday. If some of them are unable to take care of

themselves, they can bring in their caregiver—either a family member or contracted caregiver—to come and take care of them because we don't have certified nurse here to take care of each and every one of them," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

Apart from the active clientele—also referred to as congregates—the Aging Center also serves close to 200 bedridden *man'amko*, those with disabilities, and elderly members who live in secluded areas and villages, making it difficult for them to travel to the center.

Free meals are delivered each day to the homes of these beneficiaries, along with free food for their providers and caregivers. These beneficiaries fall under the agency's homebound program.

Since last year, Manglona said, the center has been seeing a continued growth in the number of its clientele. He described this as a positive development for the department, whose core mission is to serve and care for the island's elderly.

He said that regular monitoring of the senior citizens' health is among their prime objectives.

"We've been told by doctors that anything in moderation is fine for our *man'amko*. So we allow them to eat a little pastries now and again, but just in moderation. Additionally, we always encourage our visitors and guests to offer healthy food for our senior citizens," he said. By doing so, everyone plays a role in caring for the island's seniors, he added.

The Aging Center is under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. Most of its funding for operation are sourced from federal grants that pay for the services it provides to the elderly.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that under the Title III-B (Support Services Program), the *man'amko* are offered physical, mental, and social services and programs, including computer literacy, music class, arts and crafts, dance classes, water therapy, and off-island trips, among others.

The agency also receives funds from the federal Title III-C program, which is for the Nutrition Services Program, while Title III-D provides preventive health services such

as health risk assessments, routine health screening, and nutritional counseling.

Title III-E, or the National Family Caregiver Support Services, allows the agency to help family members who care for individuals who are 60 years of age and older, grandparents, and other family members caring for children with developmental disabilities.

Aging Center clients are also protected under Title VII, which is for the Elder Abuse Prevention Program and Ombudsman. CNMI Public Law 9-21 provides for the protection of the elderly from physical and mental cruelty. They are provided legal assistance services. Under the Ombudsman program, staff conducts regular visits to the homes of the elderly to ensure that their health and safety, welfare, and rights are protected at all times.

The center also benefits from Title V, or the Senior Community Service Employment Program, which provides community service and part-time work-based training to eventually place participants in unsubsidized employment.

## WIA trainees complete certified phlebotomy technician course



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Lakisha D. Hicks, Pearllyn N. Techur, Summer D. Palacios, Raynalynn A. Sablan, and Jerry A. Bahillo. Not in photo is Zaji O. Zajradhara.

Workforce Investment Agency participants complete the Certified Phlebotomy Technician course offered by one of WIA's approved service provider, Pin-

nacle Staffing, LLC in partnership with Guam Marianas Training Center.

The training is 80 hours and involves practice of venipuncture,

capillary puncture, special collection procedures, quality control, infection control, and safety.

They are subject to the National Certification Exam ad-

ministered by the National Healthcare Association and has been successfully achieved by most while others are awaiting their examination date. (PR)

## Economic indicators for Q1, Q2 now out

The CNMI Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division released for public consumption the Economic Indicators Quarterly Report for 1st and 2nd quarter 2013.

This report covers updated banking, remittance, auto

sales, visitors arrival, hotel daily rate, hotel occupancy rate, imports, telephone lines, building permits, and a short presentation of the CNMI Consumer Price Index data.

Based on this report, total deposits compared to second

quarter of 2012, increased by 12 percent, loans by 5 percent, little change in remittance, auto sales by 28 percent, visitor arrival by 12 percent, hotel occupancy rate by 18 percent, imports by 25 percent, phone lines by 2 per-

cent, with building permits down by 11 percent.

The report may be accessed online at the Commerce website, [www.commerce.gov.mp](http://www.commerce.gov.mp), under the Central Statistics Division, <http://commerce.gov.mp/divisions/central-statistics/>. (Office of the Governor)

## Twins share a birthday, but shouldn't have to share gifts

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm the proud mother of four beautiful children—a daughter, a son and 8-year-old twin boys. I am having a hard time getting people to understand that my boys, whom I rarely refer to as "twins," are two SEPARATE people! Every year at Christmas some family members buy gifts for our daughter and our eldest son, and then ONE gift our younger boys are expected to share. Abby, they once received one T-shirt, which was meant for both of them. This also happens on their birthday.

Yes, they share a room and they are twins, but they deserve the same respect as their siblings. We have never dressed them alike. They are individuals who should be treated as such like their sister and brother.

Christmas is around the corner, and I don't know how to tell my family members to please buy gifts for both the boys. I realize we have a large family. I don't expect anyone to go broke. The gift can be a small one. Can you please help me find the right words without sounding greedy?

MOM OF FOUR IN OTTAWA

**DEAR MOM:** Your relatives don't appear to be particularly sensitive, or they would already realize that children are individuals whether they happen to be wombmates or not. Their "frugality" puts a damper on what are supposed to be happy occasions. It would not be "greedy" to tell them that if they can't afford a gift for each child—regardless of how small it might be—it would cause fewer hurt feelings if they sent none at all for any of your children.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend's daughter, "Heather," came to me the other day and told me a girl at school is having sex with a 36-year-old. Abby, the girl is only 13. When I told Heather I wanted to tell a counselor, she begged me not to because she's new in the school and doesn't want to be labeled a snitch.

I am torn about what to do. I don't want her mad at me, but I can't just stand back and let this continue to happen. Heather and I are nine years apart, so I don't really come across as a parental figure. I don't know if I should tell her dad or not. Please help.

DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO

**DEAR DON'T KNOW:** The girl in question is being raped. The 36-year-old is a predator. What you should do is find out the girl's name and then let her parents know what is going on so they can possibly inform the police. If you can't locate the parents, talk to a counselor at the school, because a counselor is ethically and legally required to report a crime like this.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I recently realized that my parents lied about their wedding date. Because of my mother's age and health, I haven't told her I know the truth. My father passed away several years ago, so his obituary states the date they always used. When my mother passes, do I state the true date in her obituary or perpetuate the lie?

DAUGHTER WITH A SECRET

**DEAR DAUGHTER:** I think you should do whatever you think your mother would want when the time comes. The ages of the offspring are not usually mentioned in a person's obituary, and unless your friends read the wedding date with calculators in hand, I doubt they will notice the relationship between your age and the nuptials. But if anyone should be so tasteless as to say anything, just smile and say, "Yes, I was a love child."

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

■ ■ ■



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Applicant must possess college diploma with (8) years minimum experience as architect. Must be computer literate, experience and thorough knowledge in as-built and shop drawings using autocad operation required.

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Interested qualified applicants submit complete application or resume and latest police clearance via e-mail at [saipan@aicconstruction.com](mailto:saipan@aicconstruction.com) or mail to AIC Marinas, Inc. PMB 564 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950.  
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**BASKETBALL TEAMS' NAMES: WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?**

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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# Pistons snap Miami's 10-game win streak, 107-97

**MIAMI (AP)**—It was just a game, not a playoff series. Still, Brandon Jennings finally got a long-awaited win over the Miami Heat.

And he made the two biggest plays to get it done.

Jennings made a deep, well-covered 3-pointer to snuff out one Miami rally with 4:09 left, then stole the ball from LeBron James to set up another score two minutes later, and the Detroit Pistons beat the Heat 107-97 on Tuesday night to snap the NBA champions' 10-game winning streak.

Kyle Singler scored 18 points to lead seven Detroit players in double figures, Andre Drummond had 18 rebounds—more than any three Heat players combined—and Greg Monroe and Rodney Stuckey each scored 16 for the Pistons.

"We had a lot of good performances from a lot of people," Pistons coach Maurice Cheeks said. "Then we just held our composure because we knew that at some point they'd make a run. Brandon made that big 3 and we were able to hold on. When Brandon hit that big 3, it kind of settled us down a little bit."

It might have deflated the Heat, too.

Miami trailed by as many as 18 and then got within three on a dunk by James midway through the fourth. The Heat then missed their next three shots, two of them 3-point tries that would have knotted the game, before Jennings connected from 26 feet out—"the dagger from 90 feet," James said afterward—to put Detroit up by six.

"Just the way the game goes," said Heat guard Norris Cole, who was defending Jennings on the play. "He made a big shot. Just got to tip your hat."

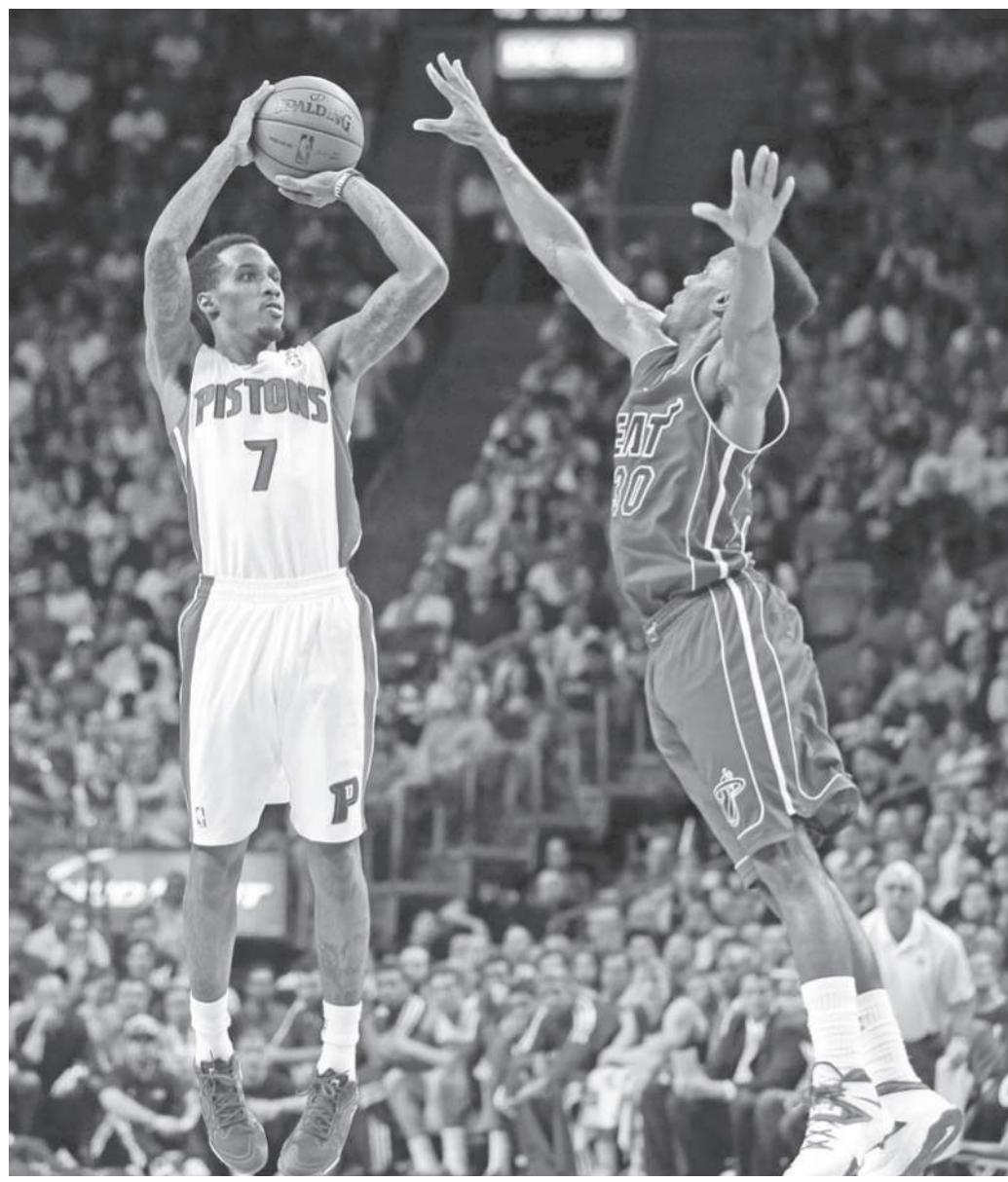
The Heat never got any closer. They nearly did, being down seven and with James charging downcourt with about two minutes left, but Jennings stole the ball away, brought it to the other end and set up Monroe for an easy bucket that sealed the deal for Detroit.

And for Jennings—who predicted his Milwaukee Bucks would oust the Heat in six games when they met in the opening round of last season's playoffs, then got swept—it was a small measure of comeuppance.

"They didn't make shots down the stretch that they usually do," said Jennings, who's in his first season with the Pistons. "We're still getting better and better. But we can't have a stretch like in the fourth, with a lead, that we couldn't get a bucket."

James and Michael Beasley each scored 23 for Miami. The Heat played without guard Dwyane Wade, the All-Star sitting for the fourth time this season to rest a sore knee.

Miami shot a season-low 44 percent.



Detroit Pistons' Brandon Jennings (7) shoots a 3-pointer over Miami Heat's Norris Cole (30) in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013, in Miami.

"It's a miss or make league at times," James said. "They made. We missed."

Jennings and Josh Smith each scored 15 for Detroit, which got 10 points apiece from Drummond and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope. Chris Bosh scored 14 and Ray Allen added 12 for Miami, which was outrebounded 46-34.

The Heat had more turnovers (eight) than field goals (seven) in the first period, missed 12 of their first 16 shots and found themselves down by 11 points before the game was 11 minutes old. And it wasn't like the Pistons were all that hot, either—they shot 48 percent in the quarter.

When the second quarter started, the Pistons were siz-

zling.

Drummond had four points in an 8-0 spurt to start the second, one that gave Detroit an 18-point lead with 9:30 left in the half.

With that, the Pistons became just the second opposing team in the last 83 Miami home games, including playoffs, to lead by that many on the Heat's home floor.

And that was just one of many instances where the Heat were left shaking their collective heads. James had 14 points in the second quarter, one of the very few reasons why it wasn't a total Detroit runaway by the break.

"It was really tough to get a flow," Bosh said. "We kept

turning the ball over, we didn't have the necessary energy we needed tonight and we got beat."

## 76ers 126, Magic 125, 2OT

In Philadelphia, Michael Carter-Williams had 27 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists for his first career triple-double, and Thaddeus Young added 25 points and 12 rebounds to lead Philadelphia past Orlando in double-overtime on Tuesday night.

Carter-Williams got his 10th assist on a dish to Young late in the second OT to put the Sixers up 125-120.

Evan Turner had 24 points for Philadelphia, which snapped a four-game losing streak.

Arron Afflalo scored a career-high 43 points for the Magic and Glen Davis had a career-high 33. Victor Oladipo had 26 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists to join Carter-Williams as rookies with a triple-double.

Turner was whistled for his fifth foul with 12.1 seconds left in the first OT on Afflalo's 3-point attempt. Afflalo made all three free throws, tying the score at 118.

## Nuggets 111, Nets 87

In New York, Timofey Mozgov had 17 points and a career-high 20 rebounds in another superb effort by Denver's bench, and the Nuggets raced by the Brooklyn Nets 111-87 Tuesday night for their seventh straight victory.

Kenneth Faried and Jordan Hamilton each added 15 points for the Nuggets, who got 57 points from the NBA's second-highest scoring second unit. That wasn't quite the 72 they rang up against Toronto on Sunday, but it was more than enough to dominate the third quarter against the short-handed Nets.

Denver outscored Brooklyn 31-15 in the period that has given the Nets season-long problems, putting it away with a 15-0 run midway through the quarter.

Joe Johnson scored 22 points for the Nets, who still haven't won consecutive games this season and fell to 5-13 heading into their nationally televised first meeting Thursday with the just-a-little-worse Knicks (3-13).

Andray Blatche added 15 for the Nets, playing without injured starters Paul Pierce and Deron Williams.

## Celtics 108, Bucks 100

In Boston, Jordan Crawford scored 25 points, Jeff Green added 18 and Boston avoided a third loss to struggling Milwaukee this season.

Brandon Bass added 16 points and nine rebounds, Avery Bradley scored 15 and Jared Sullinger finished with 12 points as all five starters scored

in double figures for Boston, which had lost two of three.

The Bucks had just snapped an 11-game losing streak with a 92-85 win over the Celtics on Saturday in Milwaukee, but couldn't quite rally from a 13-point deficit in the fourth quarter.

O.J. Mayo scored 19, and Brandon Knight had 15 points and six assists for Milwaukee. Khris Middleton added 14 points for the Bucks, who were outrebounded by the Celtics 40-33.

## Grizzlies 110, Suns 91

In Memphis, Tenn., Jon Leuer scored a career-high 23 points, Ed Davis added 21 points and 12 rebounds, and Memphis made the best of a makeshift lineup to defeat Phoenix.

Leuer and Davis got plenty of playing time because of injuries to front-line starters Zach Randolph and Marc Gasol.

Leuer connected on 10 of 13 shots, Davis made 8 of 11 and seven players finished in double figures for Memphis, which shot 55 per cent from the floor.

Mike Conley had 18 points and 14 assists for Memphis, which snapped a four-game losing streak at home.

Marcus Morris led the Suns with 18 points, Goran Dragic added 16 and Miles Plumlee had 11.

## Mavericks 89, Hornets 82

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki recovered from a rough start to score 25 points, including 14 in the fourth quarter, and the Mavericks kept Charlotte winless in Dallas.

Nowitzki, who was 1 of 10 from the field in the first half, and Monta Ellis took over late after struggling most of the game. They scored the last 19 points to help the Mavericks outscore Charlotte 29-15 in the fourth.

Al Jefferson scored 19 points, and Gerald Henderson and Kemba Walker had 16 apiece for the Hornets, who are 0-10 in Dallas and 1-17 overall against the Mavericks. That's the worst record in the league for one team against another.

# USOC chairman signals intent to bid for 2024 Games

The chairman of the U.S. Olympic Committee says "it is our intention to bid" for the 2024 Olympics if a number of criteria are met—the strongest indication yet that the United States will put forth a bid city by the end of next year.

Among the requirements chairman Larry Probst listed as the USOC makes its decision: "Do we have the right message, the right technical plan, the right leader, right financial support, governmental support?"

"A lot of things have to fall into place," Probst said Tuesday after the USOC board's quarterly meeting. "But we

continue to be focused on that opportunity."

A small group from the USOC has been visiting potential host cities, including Boston, Dallas, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco and Washington.

CEO Scott Blackmun said the list of cities will be slowly and quietly culled next year, with the process speeding up after the Sochi Olympics in February. The USOC must commit to a bid by the end of 2014.

"From my travels ... the last three or four months, I've heard a lot of encouragement

from numerous IOC members about us putting forth a bid for 2024," Probst said. "We continue to focus in that direction."

The International Olympic Committee typically encourages a U.S. city to bid, knowing that interest from the world's most powerful Olympic presence can only serve to build interest in the games. When it comes to awarding the games, however, the IOC strikes a quite different tone. The U.S. hasn't hosted an Olympics since 2002 in Salt Lake City and hasn't hosted a summer games since 1996 in Atlanta.

The country's last two bid-

ders, Chicago and New York, have been humbled in the selection process, each finishing fourth.

Blackmun and Probst have been traveling the globe trying to shore up the USOC's reputation, knowing that is the best way to have a chance at the ultimate prize for an Olympic federation—the honor to serve as host of the Olympics.

Blackmun said the USOC is committed to a private process in determining which city to put forth as the 2024 candidate—unlike previous efforts, which have been public, costly and, at times, embarrassing.

"We've got a handful of good candidates, and that's all we want to say right now," Blackmun said. "Some cities may not want to go forward and may not want that to be public."

The IOC will pick its 2024 host in 2017.

While Probst gave the strongest signal yet that the USOC would put a city in the mix, Blackmun tried to temper that later on the same conference call with reporters.

"We haven't made a decision if we're going to bid at all for 2024," he said. "It's gradual. The list will get smaller." (AP)

# Source: Yanks, Ellsbury reach \$153M, 7-yr deal



**NEW YORK**  
(AP)—Free agent outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury,

fresh off winning the World Series with Boston, reached agreement with the rival New York Yankees on a seven-year contract worth about \$153 million, a person familiar with the negotiations said Tuesday night.

Ellsbury is the second major free-agent addition in the Yankees' off-season rebuilding after missing the playoffs for just the second time in 19 years. The center fielder was to take a physical in New York on Wednesday that he must pass before the deal can be finalized, the person said, speaking on condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized.

The Yankees also had been negotiating with outfielder Shin-Soo Choo, who like Ellsbury is represented by agent Scott Boras.

Earlier Tuesday, New York finalized an \$85 million, five-year contract with All-Star catcher Brian McCann.

There is a long history of stars moving from Beantown to the Big Apple during their careers. Babe Ruth was the most famous, and Roger Clemens, Wade Boggs and Johnny Damon followed.

Ellsbury, who turned 30 in September, led the majors with 52 stolen bases despite being hobbled late in the season by a broken right foot. The lefty-hitting leadoff man batted .298 with nine homers and 53 RBIs, and the short right-field porch at Yankee Stadium should boost his power numbers.

Ellsbury's deal includes a \$21 million option for the 2021 season, with a \$5 million buyout. If the option is exercised, the deal would be worth \$169 million over eight years.

His agreement may not be finalized this week, and it's possible he



In this Oct. 17, 2013, file photo, Boston Red Sox's Jacoby Ellsbury dives for a ball hit by Detroit Tigers' Omar Infante during Game 5 of the American League baseball championship series in Detroit.

could be introduced by the Yankees during a news conference at the winter meetings next week in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

The move would raise the Yankees' luxury tax payroll to about \$138 million for 10 players. The Yankees hope to get under the \$189 million tax

threshold next season, which includes about \$177 million for salaries for the 40-man roster and approximately \$12 million for benefits.

New York also has been speaking with the agents for Robinson Cano, their All-Star second baseman. The Yankees, who rebuffed his request for

a 10-year deal worth more than \$300 million, believe he has been in talks with the Seattle Mariners.

Ellsbury won a pair of World Series titles with the Red Sox and was an All-Star in 2011, when he finished second to Detroit's Justin Verlander in AL MVP voting. He has reached the post-

## Steelers' Tomlin: On-field foray was 'inexcusable'



**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Mike Tomlin was "mesmerized."

He was also, the Pittsburgh Steelers coach admits, out of position.

Way out of position.

Tomlin was so awed by the way Baltimore's Jacoby Jones raced through the Steelers crumpling kickoff return unit in the third quarter Thanksgiving night, Tomlin couldn't take himself away from watching it all unfold in high definition on one of M&T Stadium's video boards.

Only when Tomlin—standing on the white strip of grass meant to separate the playing field from the sideline—saw his black-and-gold jacket and black baseball cap flash across the screen did he realize it might be a good time to move.

Too late.

As Tomlin danced to his left, Jones edged right to avoid bowling the coach over. Pittsburgh's Cortez Allen made the tackle after a 73-yard return, a bizarre play that will be remembered far longer than Baltimore's eventual 22-20 victory.

It's an ill-timed two-step the 41-year-old Tomlin allows was a lot of things, namely "embarrassing, inexcusable, illegal and a blunder."

The one thing it wasn't, he insists, was intentional.

"The thought that it could be per-

ceived as intentional never even crossed my mind," Tomlin said Tuesday during a lengthy and candid apology. "I realized I fell short of the expectations of my position in being where I was and my actions on the play. I am not one to seek comfort from that standpoint, so I was just going to take my medicine."

Tomlin was not flagged on the play, and pointed out he was following his normal routine when he stood at the Pittsburgh 35 following a touchdown that pulled the Steelers within 13-7 midway through the third quarter. He prefers to watch kickoffs on stadium scoreboards because it gives him a better perspective on how the play is developing and couldn't recall a specific time when officials told him to step back.

Still, Tomlin declined to use that as an excuse while communicating with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and other league officials Monday. Tomlin said he had no plans to fight whatever disciplinary action the league decides to hand out.

"I don't know what a just punishment is," he said. "I have no idea. I'm not acting in a way to preserve my wallet and my money. My wallet and my money is what it is because of the game of football."

The NFL fined the New York Jets \$100,000 in 2010 when cameras caught strength and conditioning coach Sal Alosi tripping a Miami player on the sideline. Alosi was suspended by

the Jets and eventually resigned after the season.

While Tomlin's job status is certainly not in jeopardy, he is aware critics believe he was attempting to gain a competitive advantage. It's why he felt the need to speak up.

"It's been shocking to me that my actions could have been or have been perceived in any way intentional," he said.

Which is why Tomlin was a little surprised his sons told him the incident kept coming up during the usual Sunday NFL TV coverage.

"When I realized the integrity of the game became the chief issue in the discussion, it was an opportunity and the time was appropriate to set the record straight," he said.

Tomlin acknowledged there was a memo sent out by the league last week asking coaches to be more mindful of where they stand on the sideline. He said he might have missed it because the Steelers were facing the Ravens on a short week.

Regardless, he stressed he will do a better job "policing" himself in the future and stay out of harm's way. He still plans on watching kickoffs on video boards. He just plans to do it from a safer (and legal) vantage point.

As for whether his public expression of remorse could have any effect on whatever fine is coming his way, Tomlin considered it the least of his problems.

"I guess, he said, "we will all make due."

season four times and is a career .301 hitter in those 38 games.

After their playoff absence, the Yankees are undergoing a major transformation. Closer Mariano Rivera and Andy Pettitte are retiring, Phil Hughes is leaving to sign with Minnesota and New York appears to be making little effort to retain outfielder Curtis Granderson.

McCann, a seven-time All-Star, is to be introduced at a news conference Thursday at Yankee Stadium.

He receives \$17 million in each of the next five seasons, and the Yankees have a \$15 million option for 2019 with no buyout. The option becomes McCann's if he has at least 1,000 plate appearances combined in 2017 and 2018, has at least 90 starts at catcher in 2018 and does not end the 2018 season on the disabled list.

His deal includes a full no-trade provision, meaning he cannot be dealt without his consent.

McCann, who turns 30 in February, hit .256 with 20 homers and 57 RBIs in 102 games this year, when he missed the first month following offseason surgery on his right shoulder. He has a .277 average in nine big league seasons with 176 homers and 661 RBIs.

Following the departure of Russell Martin last offseason, Yankees catchers combined for a .213 average, eight homers and 43 RBIs, according to STATS, down from .220, 22 and 64 in 2012.

"We feel we have made a significant improvement to a key position, while adding a high-character presence to our clubhouse," Yankees managing general partner Hal Steinbrenner said in a statement. "Our work this offseason has just begun, but we feel this is an important step towards what will be an exciting and rewarding 2014 season for our fans."

## 5 former Chiefs sue team over head injuries

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP)—Five former Kansas City Chiefs players who were on the team between 1987 and 1993 filed a lawsuit Tuesday claiming the team hid and even lied about the risks of head injuries during that time period when there was no collective bargaining agreement in place in the NFL.

The lawsuit was filed in Jackson County Circuit Court on behalf of former players Leonard Griffin, Chris Martin, Joe Phillips, Alexander Louis Cooper and Kevin Porter, all of whom played on defense. It seeks more than \$15,000 in actual and punitive damages. All five players have opted out of a multimillion-dollar settlement announced this summer that would compensate former players for their head injuries.

The Kansas City plaintiffs claim to be suffering from post-concussion syndrome and latent brain disease because of multiple concussions they sustained while playing for the Chiefs. They all claim also to be suffering from chronic traumatic encephalopathy, which can only be definitively diagnosed by examining the brain after death.

Martin, a Kansas City resident who played linebacker for the Chiefs from 1988 to 1993, said at a news conference he didn't know that continuing to play in games after sustaining a head injury would cause permanent damage.

"I would have liked to have the op-

portunity to know that going back on the field would cause me to have severe disabilities later in life," he said. "I didn't know that. That's what the lawsuit is about."

Chiefs spokesman Ted Crews and NFL spokesman Greg Aiello both declined to comment on the suit.

Hours after Martin talked about his brain injuries, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell's wife, Jane, and the wives of former NFL players Howie Long and Mike Golic led a discussion with hundreds of mothers about why they should let their children play football.

As part of the safety clinic at the Chiefs' training facility, roughly 200 women of all ages took part in drills designed to teach them proper tackling techniques. Nearly a dozen former Chiefs, including Hall of Fame linebacker Bobby Bell, walked the giddy moms through the drills.

Roger Goodell and Chiefs owner Clark Hunt also addressed the women, but did not bring up the lawsuit. They were not available to answer questions from the media.

Plaintiffs' attorney Ken McClain called the proposed \$765 million settlement between the NFL and former players insignificant and said it provides compensation only to the former players with the most severe brain injuries.

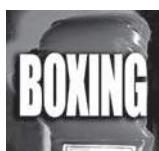
# Too early to talk of tax amnesty for Pacquiao

By MICHAEL LIM UBAC  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—The possibility of extending amnesty to world boxing champion Manny Pacquiao for allegedly misdeclaring his income in 2009 is “a bridge that is too far away yet,” President Aquino said on Tuesday.

Aquino noted that Pacquiao, the representative of the lone district of Sarangani, had not even owed up to his tax deficiencies.

“I think the lesson has to be that if you are guilty of a particular crime, then...you have to exhibit a degree of remorse. But, at this point in time, he says that he has complied with all the requirements. So I think this is



crossing the bridge that is too far away yet,” said Aquino, when interviewed at the 27th annual Bulong Pulungan Christmas Party.

Aquino explained that any amnesty proposal would emanate from his office and should be approved by Congress.

“Amnesty is (a) proposal by me (which) has to normally indicate, perhaps, a class of individuals, a group. It doesn’t refer normally to an individual,” said the President, when asked if he would be open to extending amnesty to Pacquiao.

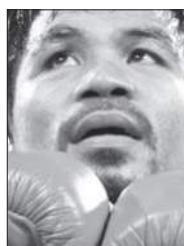
An amnesty does not extinguish a taxpayer’s liabilities as it only condones penalties and does away with imprisonment

for tax-evasion cases.

On Thursday, Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares said that Pacquiao “technically misdeclared” his income in 2009 when he stated in his tax return that he earned only less than P50 million in the Philippines and when he failed to include his earnings from his two fights in the United States that year.

Pacquiao’s gross income should have been closer to or even more than P1 billion, claimed Henares, who froze his bank accounts for allegedly failing to settle P2.2 billion in tax deficiencies.

Pacquiao, one of the world’s richest athletes, had just returned from a convincing victory over American Brandon Rios in a welterweight match in Macau



Pacquiao

when news about his tax problems resurfaced.

He protested the Bureau of Internal Revenues

(BIR) move to freeze his bank accounts, insisting he had already furnished the bureau copies of tax returns submitted to the US Internal Revenue Service to show that he had paid his income taxes.

Pacquiao said he was not hiding or running away from his tax responsibility, and expressed confidence that the issue would be settled soon.

The BIR started to investigate

and audit Pacquiao in late 2010 after an “abrupt” drop in his ranking among the country’s top taxpayers, said Henares.

From 2006 to 2008, Pacquiao was in the top 10 percent of highest taxpayers but he slid to the top 30 percent in 2009.

When the BIR audited him for his 2008 and 2009 income tax returns (ITRs), Pacquiao did not submit any documents, thus prompting the agency to subpoena him. He responded by executing an affidavit declaring his US income and tax payment in his 2008 ITR but without any supporting documents.

In that instance, Henares said the BIR did not become strict in asking documentation and allowed him to claim tax deduc-

tions.

But when Pacquiao claimed tax deductions for expenses, he was unable to provide documentation, she said. The BIR then assessed that he had P769 million in tax obligations, including value-added tax.

On his 2009 ITR, Henares said Pacquiao did not declare any US income but only less than P50 million earned in the Philippines, thus the “underdeclaration.”

The agency estimated his tax obligations for 2009 at P1.433 billion based on his income in the United States from “public information” on his bouts there and shares from pay-per-view and online ticket purchases, as well as endorsements.—*With a report by Christine Avendaño*

## Land and Sand Hat Tournament this weekend

Saipan Ultimate will be having an ultimate frisbee tournament called the Land and Sand Hat Tournament on Dec. 7 and 8.

The land portion of this tournament will be held at Hopwood Junior High School Field on Dec. 7 starting at 8:30am, and the sand portion will be played at Fiesta Beach in Garapan on Dec. 8 starting at 10am.

This tournament is to encourage newcomers to learn more about the game of Ultimate Frisbee, improve your skills, and play a fun, competitive game. It is also an opportunity to play with off-island players (multiple players are coming from Guam and beyond).

This is a “hat” tournament. Teams will be picked from

several hats. Players will rank themselves based on experience and athleticism. Each hat will have players with similar experience/athleticism. Each team will have several players from each hat or level. This is to encourage evenly matched teams and that everyone from seasoned veterans to newcomers will have a good time.

The tournament will have some excellent sponsors including MarPac, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Delta Management Corp., The Shack, Fiesta Resort and Spa, Athlete's Foot, Hyatt, Charcoal BBQ, Godfather's, Xerox, Wild Bill's, Marianas Visitors Authority, and IT&E. There will be prizes for the winning

and most spirited teams as well as individual awards for MVP (most valuable player), MFP (most fun player), and possibly others.

This cost of the tournament is \$25 which includes a custom designed Saipan Ultimate disc, breakfast snacks, lunch both days (purchased from Subway, Charcoal BBQ, and Tropical Blends), a party for participants both nights, and two awesome days of Ultimate Frisbee.

Please register online at <http://hashtagsapianultimate.hattournaments.com/>. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Trey Dunn via phone 287-1407 or email Dunn.Trey@gmail.com or SaipanUltimate@gmail.com. (PR)

will be Taisacan's comeback fight after over three years of absence in the octagon cage. The 195-lb fighter's last bout, according to Sherdog, was against Robert Palacios during the Gorilla Warfare: Armageddon on Aug. 28, 2010. Taisacan lost on a submission (RNC) at the 1:57 mark of the first round.

Meanwhile, 11 other fights will be featured in next week's Trench Warz 17.

The first three bouts will be kickboxing contests with Kyle “300” Martin of Guam Muay Thai taking on Benji Estoque in a 125-lb duel, Jonathan “Outlaw” Camacho of Team D2S meeting Lenny “Machine Gun” Sablan at 135 lbs, and Jones Langu challenging Trench Tech's Jasper “The Disaster” Van Der Maas at 145 lbs.

For the MMA action starter, Zalaka's Franklin Agulto will square off against Kainoa “The Ghost” Wanket of Team D2S at 135 lbs. Other MMA bouts

include Zalaka's Allan Aguon vs Pwang's Garry “Dissa” Ray; Marianas Elite's Jon Tudela vs Trench Tech's Vince Torres; Gracie Barra's Jose “Young Blood” Ramirez vs Marianas Elite's Vince “Sanity” Pua; Zalaka's Danny Cruz vs Spike 22's Rob “Shiska” Alvarez; and Tiger Yatsui vs Ryan “Trobz” Ngirbabul.

Donivan “Trackstar” Mendiola is also scheduled to see action in Trench Warz 17, but his opponent in the 155-lb bout has yet to be announced, while a Saipan versus Korea encounter will take place in between the two title fights with Marianas Elite's Derrick “El Peligro” Rangamar challenging Korean Top Team's Kwan Ho Kwak.

Tickets for the Trench Warz 17 are now available at \$35 (for VIP) and \$25 (generally admission) at Docomo Pacific, Boarderline Surf and Skate, FISG, and the Trench Tech Gym.

the field, as its fifth member (Nap Dizon) joined a bike event on race day.

The Young Manamko's

came in at second after clocking in at 1:38:32. The runner-up team had brothers Michael and Matthew Mancao, Noel Altamirano, Mark Isip,

wise and with Alipio still complaining, the Laguna big man was called for the infraction and Armatech's Sonny Ebuen canned both charities for their 86-80 advantage, with still three minutes left in the match.

Armatach went on to hit 12 more free throws in the remaining minutes of the fourth quarter, as Laguna completely lost it, committing one foul after another. Laguna reached its boiling point at the 1:13 mark of the fourth when coach Jerry “Mutombo” Lopez entered the playing court and uttered heated words with the referee. The Laguna mentor was slapped with a technical foul and led some of his players in walking out of the game. The rest of the Laguna players—Zapata, Jun Tabora, Darag, Erlan Lansang, Nikko Buhay, and the fouled out Rodney Catala showed sportsmanship and finished the match.

Catala was called for his fifth and last foul late in the third, forcing Laguna to rely on Alipio, Villarin, and Tabora. Tabora scored the only two field goals for Laguna in the last four-minute meltdown and although he finished with 21 points, he had to bleed for his baskets, as Yosh Gabaldon hounded him all night. Villarin top-scored for Laguna with his 26 points despite reporting for duty beginning in the second quarter, but missed his last four attempts in the closing minutes after starting the fourth with 6 straight points, while Alipio was scoreless in the final canto.

Armatach had a balance of offense with Ebuen leading the defending champion with his 22 markers. Moreno chipped in 19, Bernard Montano had 14,

and Fred Camacho as members. Safety First rounded out the Top 3 after submitting 1:38:47. The squad was composed of Ketson “Jack” Kabiriel, James Lee, Amy Sletten, Jerry Diaz, and Ban Younis.

In the solo division, Flor-

Gabaldon contributed 13, and Pineda added 10. Bruce Berline and Bong Malasarte combined for 15 markers.

Meanwhile, in the first semis game, Degree also lost focus in the fourth quarter, allowing Blue Haus to cruise to victory.

Degree came back from a 32-47 halftime deficit and managed to move within single digit at the end of the third, 56-65, when it made lapses in the opening minutes of the fourth, helping Blue Haus to widen the gap anew.

Blue Haus started the fourth with a triple from Edgar Pangelinan for a 68-56 lead and the advantage ballooned to 16, after the pennant champion gained four straight free throws in the ensuing plays. The charities were awarded after Degree was charged for an unsportsmanlike foul with Dindo Pablo holding Edsel Mendoza, who stole the ball and headed for a breakaway, and Ed Cosino getting a technical for contesting the call.

Degree never recovered from thereon, while Blue Haus continued to play unselfish basketball en route to the 19-point win.

Rebuyon paced Blue Haus with 18 points, while Mendoza and Pangelinan chipped in 17 apiece, and Tony Diaz had 16.

The Blue Haus-Armatach title game is set for 5pm, followed by the Open division championship match between KB Market and Hoopaholics at 7pm.

### First Game

**Blue Haus 97** – Rebuyon 18, Pangelinan 17, Mendoza 17, Diaz 16, Guiab 8, Santos 7, S. Fernandez 7, Palacios 4, Manabat 2, Factor 2.

**D&E Degree 78** – Ocampo 16, Tobias 13, De Guzman 13,

Pablo 11, Rabago 8, Jinang 7, Cosino 4, de la Torre 2, Drilon 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 17-19, 47-32, 65-56, 97-78.

### Second Game

**Armatach 98** – Ebuen 22, Moreno 19, Montano 14, Gabaldon 13, Pineda 10, Berline 9, Malasarte 6, Park 3, Poquiz 1.

**Erika's 80** – Villarin 26, Tabora 21, Alipio 18, Catalla 10, Zapata 6, Lansang 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 20-16, 42-40, 68-64, 98-80.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	8	.12 .400	–
Philadelphia	7	.12 .368	½
Toronto	6	.11 .353	½
Brooklyn	5	.13 .278	2
New York	3	.13 .188	3

#### Southeast Division

Miami	14	4 .778	–
Washington	9	9 .500	5
Atlanta	9	10 .474	5½
Charlotte	8	11 .421	6½
Orlando	6	12 .333	8

#### Central Division

Indiana	16	2 .889	–
Detroit	8	10 .444	8
Chicago	7	9 .438	8
Cleveland	5	12 .294	10½
Milwaukee	3	14 .176	12½

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	San Antonio	15	3 .833	–
Houston	13	6 .684	2½	
Dallas	11	8 .579	4½	
New Orleans	9	8 .529	5½	
Memphis	9	8 .529	5½	

#### Northwest Division

Portland	15	3 .833	–	
Oklahoma City	13	3 .813	1</	

# 2013 FA Youth Challenge Cup

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Players of MP United U18 and coach Norman Del Rosario, far left, pose with their championship trophy after beating Tan Holdings FC last Saturday in the 2013 FA Youth Challenge Cup at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



Tan Holdings FC's Sean Perez receives the Golden Boot award from NMIFA technical director Johann Noetzel.



MP United goalie Chris Aninzo receives the Golden Glove award from NMIFA technical director Johann Noetzel.



Tan Holdings and MP United players exchange hi-fives after the game.



MP United players celebrate the go-ahead free kick off of John Diego Masga, third from left.



Tan Holdings' Joshua Galarion stops the ball.



Tan Holdings' Michael Fidellino, right, and MP United's John Taisacan chase the ball down the sideline.



Tan Holdings FC huddles before the start of the game.



MP United's Kennedy Izuka, left, and Tan Holdings' Yosh Mafnas, second left, run after the ball.



MP United's Thanyakorn Konkoed tries to dribble out of the defense of Tan Holdings' Joshua Galarion.



Pistons snap  
Miami's 10-game  
win streak, 107-97

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# Saipan Tribune Sports



Source: Yanks,  
Ellsbury reach  
\$153M, 7-yr deal

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Armatech sets title duel vs Blue Haus

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Defending champion Armatech/MDX is back in the finals and will be battling unbeaten Blue Haus in the title game in the 2013 UFO-Budweiser Masters Division Basketball League this Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Armatech and Blue Haus arranged their winner-take-all finale this weekend after downing separate semis foes last Tuesday night. Blue Haus took the first finals berth and stretched its winning run this season to 11 after a 97-78 rout of D&Q Degree, while Armatech secured the second and last finals ticket after eliminating Laguna/Erika's Catering in the other semis pairing, 98-80.

Third-ranked Armatech may have won by 18 points, but it once clung to a shaky 2-point cushion before Laguna lost focus in the last four minutes of the match, concentrating more on contesting calls instead of keeping its foe within striking distance.

Laguna had a chance to either tie the game or grab the lead when it had possession at the 82-80 tally, but Amor Zapanata's entry pass to Melvin Villarin was intercepted by Elmer Pineda, who then went coast-to-coast for a layup to give Armatech more breathing room.

Another botched play from Laguna returned the ball to Armatech, which got another break when Jun Alipio was called for a technical foul for excessive complaining. Alipio contested that Armatech's Martin Moreno touched the ball last in a battle for the loose ball at the right corner against Laguna's Rey Darag. The referee saw otherwise.

See ARMATECH on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Armatech's Bruce Berline, left, and Laguna's Jun Alipio fight for the loose ball during the first quarter of their semis game in the UFO Masters caging last Tuesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

## 2 title bouts at Trench Warz 17



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Mylo "Bam Bam" Lassiter pins down France's Ferrid "Hurricane" Kheder during the main event bout in the Rites of Passage 15 held in August this year at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Two title fights will be the highlights of the Trench Warz 17: Night of the Champions.

Zalaka's Jordan Manglona and Trench Tech's Josh "Chaos" Duenas will battle in the first title bout of the night. They duel for the flyweight crown (125 lbs) on Dec. 13 at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort. Manglona will be coming into the flyweight championship showdown with momentum, as he won his latest fight in the Rites of Passage 15: Wrath of the Warriors. He scored a victory via rear-naked choked on R.A.A.'s Ray Camacho at the 1:51 mark of the first round. Manglona was also triumphant in Trench Warz 16: Firepower, earning a unanimous decision over Guam Muay Thai-debut fighter D.J. Duenas. The Zalaka bet has a 3-1 win/loss MMA record and 2-2 slate in kickboxing.

See 2 TITLE on Page 26

## NMA holds last race, thanks 2013 Turkey Trot sponsors



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Shane and the Cool Guys run under the rain in Marpi during last year's NMA Christmas Island Relay.

Northern Marianas Athletics will be holding its last race of the season on Dec. 28 with the staging of the 32nd Annual Christmas Island Relay.



The 13.7-mile race will start at the southern parking lot of Pacific Islands Club and end at the Last Command Post in Marpi. Registration will begin at 5:15am, while the race starts at 6am. Entry fee is \$25 for each team and \$10 for individual runners.

Shane and the Cool Guys topped last year's relay after clocking in at 1:36:45. The See NMA on Page 26